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Recession cuts airport traffic 4.5% in 2009

TRAVEL The economic downturn impacted the number of passengers coming through the Halifax Stanfield International Airport last year.

In figures released Thursday, the airport said passenger traffic was down 4.5 per cent from its record total one year earlier. In 2009, the airport served 3,417,164 travellers.

The breakdown of numbers saw domestic traffic dip 4.3 per cent, transborder traffic off by 6.4 per cent and international passengers down 4.1 per cent.

On the plus side, the airport expects a financial surplus for the year and is calling for overall traffic to increase by 2.6 per cent for 2010.

METRO HALIFAX

News on the Move
What's this barcode for?
Learn how to scan the barcode with the instructions at the top of pg 3

Vancouver Games
Countdown to 2010
Follow Metro's coverage leading up to the 2010 Winter Olympics.
• Today — Organizers see these Games as a nation-building event, page 15
On the web
Visit metronews.ca for news updates



Torchbearer Michael Tchoo jumps as he carries the Olympic flame during the Olympic torch relay at Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, B.C., on Thursday. The Olympic flame is on a 106-day journey across Canada in the longest domestic torch relay in Olympic history. It will end with the lighting of the Olympic cauldron at the opening ceremonies Friday.

Vancouver 2010 **Games on!**

No inquiry into MLA spending

PAUL MCLEOD
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Premier Darrell Dexter will not set up an inquiry to look into political expenses.

The recent report by auditor general Jacques Lapointe only examines expenses from 2006 to June '09. The last expense prior to this audit was 15 years ago. Lapointe also couldn't audit the up to \$48,000 in non-receipted allowances MLAs have every year because there is no paper trail. An inquiry could require MLAs to explain what they spent, but Dexter said Thursday that isn't needed.

"The purpose of an inquiry is to get a result, to get recommendations. And in fact we already have the recommendations that have been put forward by the auditor general," he said, adding work has begun to overhaul the system. "What is done is done. We need to make sure we have something in place that works for all concerned," he said.

Dexter rejected having police look at egregious expenses, saying the system limped along for years with rules "so broad and so porous that these things were allowed."

Yet Dexter cited those same rules to explain why he expensed a briefcase costing \$359 before taxes, which most professions

312 Metro has crunched the numbers and December is clearly the month of choice when it comes to red-flagged expenses. A total of 312 were highlighted in the auditor general's report for the last month of the calendar year.
Full story, page 3

would call a personal item. "This was a legitimate expense that was authorized under the guidelines," he said. "It's just a functional piece of equipment as far as I'm concerned."

Finance Minister Graham Steele confirmed the speaker could call an Internal Economy Board Meeting at any time to change the rules and demand receipts for all expenses.

But Speaker Charlie Parker said that won't happen yet. Parker said he does plan an IEB meeting in the next couple weeks, but the only change on the books is banning members from expensing meals on days they get an \$84 food per diem.

Parker said they're waiting on recommendations from former speaker Art Donahoe, who Dexter charged with figuring out new rules, before going any further.

Donahoe's full report is due in July, but he said his preliminary recommendations will be released as soon as the end of this month.

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News in brief

CORRECTION A story in Wednesday's edition of Metro Halifax mistakenly said Progressive Conservative Leader Karen Casey had expensed five TVs. The correct information was she expensed five computers.

METRO HALIFAX

Ousted minister 'honourable'

APPOINTMENT A former Nova Scotia cabinet minister who was expelled from the legislature two decades ago for cheating on his expenses will get to use the title "honourable" in front of his name.

Billy Joe MacLean has been named to Nova Scotia's Executive Council by Lt.-Gov. Mayann Francis.

MacLean was a cabinet minister in the Conservative government of John Buchanan when he pleaded guilty in 1986 to submitting forged expense claims worth \$22,000.

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Timberlea-Prospect MLA Bill Estabrooks answers questions from reporters in this file photo from last month. Estabrooks' expense claims are the lowest of any MLA and he thinks MLAs should have to show receipts for all expenses.

MLAs must answer for 'dumb moves': Minister

Estabrooks says spending an 'embarrassment'

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While most MLAs have either defended or stayed mum on their colleagues' spending, the one who bought the least doesn't mind being blunt.

"The word stupid comes up pretty quickly," Energy Minister Bill Estabrooks said Thursday when asked about some now-infamous expenses.

While many MLAs only expensed items that can be clearly linked to running an office, the Timberlea-Prospect representative's well-known eschewing of technology made him the legislature's thriftiest member. He expensed \$2,325 on assets over three years and one third of that was for a

Expenses

• Former Tory cabinet minister Carolyn Bolivar-Getson said Thursday she is returning questionable items she had expensed in office. Among them are a generator, computers, digital cameras, desks, printers, and a TV. Former Tory minister Len Goucher, who had the highest expense total, told media Thursday he refutes some of the auditor general's report and will release a statement.

used desk.

"I have no need for a loveseat in my constituency office," he said. "I have no need for an expensive camera."

Initially all MLAs asked by Metro, including the three party leaders, said they did-

n't believe anyone deliberately padded their expenses. As more and more embarrassing items came out they began simply saying it was up to individuals to defend their purchases.

Estabrooks told reporters he doesn't believe there's a link between plush offices and getting re-elected. He believes MLAs should have to show receipts for all expenses.

"This is a huge embarrassment. It's an embarrassment for us as elected officials because we're all tarred by the same brush," he said.

Estabrooks said his colleagues are generally "pretty responsible people, but some of those people have made some dumb moves and now they have to be answerable for them."

December claims almost triple 2nd highest month

SPENDING December is typically the biggest shopping month of the year for most Nova Scotians. Turns out, the same is true for our MLAs.

Metro Halifax's review of a complete inventory of assets bought by members of all three parties between July 2006 and June 2009 revealed that politicians expensed a total of \$270,898 (312 claims) during the three December months that fell within that time frame. Novembers came a distant second, with a total of \$96,417 (138 claims) in expenses charged to the provincial coffers.

In the new year, expenses fell way off, with Januarys coming in at

\$270,898

spent by MLAs in the three December months between July 2006 and June 2009 in a total of 312 claims.

\$35,283.90 and February at \$35,299.58.

Overall, May seems to have been the most frugal time of the year in the provincial legislature. Only \$19,229 (41 claims) in taxpayer's money was spent during that month.

Overall, the average per month works out to about \$64,000.

Items without an invoice were excluded.

MONIQUE MUISE/METRO HALIFAX
WITH FILES MATTHEW WUEST

Hurlburt's alleged spending has Tories on damage control

EXPENSE RULES Former Yarmouth MLA Richard Hurlburt may have resigned but he's still proving to be a headache for the Tories.

On Thursday allnovascotia.com reported Hurlburt for years took between \$16,000 and \$20,000 for an annual apartment allowance, despite living with his wife in her HRM home.

The system didn't require receipts to prove Hurlburt had an apartment before he took the money.

Tory Leader Karen Casey said Thursday she couldn't speak to the specifics of Hurlburt's case but is working to change the system.

"I don't believe it's a breach of the rules but it may be one of those rules that needs to be changed."

Hurlburt resigned earlier

Open system

• Tory leader Karen Casey said she is working alongside Premier Darrell Dexter and Liberal Leader Stephen McNeil to fix expense rules and create an open system.

this week after admitting to expensing \$8,000 on a home generator but failing to disclose his \$2,500 TV. Casey admitted she knew about the TV but said she didn't mention it because Hurlburt was seeking clarification from the speaker. On Wednesday she altered her story, saying Hurlburt should have disclosed the TV but it was OK for her to say nothing because it is the individual MLA's responsibility.

PAUL MCLEOD/METRO HALIFAX

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Telus donated \$679,000 to the Atlantic Canada Boys and Girls Clubs Thursday. The 10-month Help Kids Go Further Campaign promised \$25 from every smartphone and mobile phone sold in Atlantic Canada would go towards the 30 Boys and Girls Clubs in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, P.E.I. and Newfoundland and Labrador. **METRO HALIFAX**

Giving back Canadian-style

Red Cross donations to be accepted at Hockey Day for Haiti

Haiti Crisis

MONIQUE MUISE

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Halifax will play host to another huge fundraising event for Haiti next weekend — and this time it will centre on our national pastime.

Hockey Day for Haiti, set to take place on Feb. 21 at the Halifax Metro Centre, will feature a full day of on- and off-ice activities, organizers announced Thursday. Donations to the Canadian Red Cross will be encouraged throughout the festivities in support of the organization's ongoing relief efforts in earthquake-ravaged Haiti.

"This will be a wonderful event," said Canadian Red Cross representative Gavin Giles. "I can't think of a better combination, and I'm so proud to be involved in it."

The day will kick off at 2 p.m. with the Halifax Mooseheads hitting the ice to play the Cape Breton Screaming Eagles in a regular, ticketed event. After that, the doors will open up to the general public for a



Red Cross volunteers watch as Trade Centre Ltd. president and CEO Scott Ferguson speaks at a press conference at the Nova Scotia Sports Hall of Fame Thursday. The Metro Centre will host a Hockey Day for Haiti event on Feb. 21, where fans can watch Team Canada take on Team USA at the Olympics on the big screen. The event is free but donations will be accepted for the Canadian Red Cross.

free family skate at 5:15 p.m., followed by on-ice demonstrations, a "dryer shootout" in honour of local hockey hero Sidney Crosby and a "mascot hockey game."

At 8 p.m., massive screens will be rolled out and the audience will be treated to a live broadcast of the Canadian men's hockey team taking on the United States at the Vancouver Olympics.

"We think it's a great op-

Details online

• For more details on the event, head to halifaxmetrocentre.com

portunity for us to connect with the national Olympic movement, all while supporting an extremely worthy cause," said Scott Ferguson, president and CEO of Trade Centre Ltd.

Ferguson added he hopes everyone will wear at least one item of red clothing to the event in support of both Team Canada and the Red Cross.

Last week, a major concert event dubbed Halifax for Haiti drew thousands to the Metro Centre's main arena and raised \$135,000 in support of relief efforts in Haiti, which was brought to its knees by a massive earthquake on Jan. 12.

Police issue warning after woman sexually assaulted

CRIME Halifax Regional Police have issued a warning to the public after a sexual assault took place early Sunday morning in Halifax.

Police say the 4 a.m. incident happened as the 20-year-old female victim and her friend were walking home in the area of Queen and Morris streets. Police say they were approached by a man who reached under the victim's skirt and touched her.

When confronted by the victim, police say the suspect produced a small pipe-like object and threatened both women.

Police say the suspect was

scared off when an unknown man approached from the area of Morris Street. Neither woman was injured.

"We want the public to be aware," police spokesman Const. Brian Palmeter said.

"The fact somebody did this is very concerning to us."

Police describe the suspect as white, about 26 years old and 170 pounds with a round face, short scruffy hair and an athletic build. He was wearing a black stocking or toque-style hat, blue jeans and a black fall jacket.

PHILIP CROUCHER/METRO HALIFAX

Crown won't appeal ruling in death of Truro toddler

COURT The Crown is abandoning efforts to appeal a judge's decision to acquit Terry Dean Allen of manslaughter in the brutal death of a Truro toddler.

Crown attorney Diane McGrath said a review of the June 2009 trial proceedings determined an appeal could not be sustained.

"In order for the Crown to appeal a decision we have to find an error in law, and in this case, when the transcript and the judge's decision was very carefully analyzed and reviewed, there was no error in law made," said McGrath. "We can't appeal something simply because we may disagree with his findings of fact."

In his Sept. 14 decision,

Judge Alan Tufts concluded during the three-week-long trial the Crown had failed to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that Allen was guilty of a manslaughter charge.

Samantha Mercer, 3, died in March 2005 as a result of injuries sustained in the Brunswick Street home that Allen at the time shared with her mother, Aleisha Mercer.

Allen claimed she fell down a flight of stairs while he was babysitting, which caused the fatal injuries described during the trial, including head trauma, a broken arm, several compressed vertebrae and bruises all over her body. The toddler died at the IWK hospital after being taken off life-support. **TRURO DAILY NEWS**

News in brief

ROBBERY Halifax Regional Police are investigating a robbery that occurred early Thursday morning in the 2000 block of Gottingen Street. The victim

was robbed at gunpoint and the attacker got away with an undisclosed amount of money and personal property.

MARIJUANA Over 270 marijuana

plants, drug paraphernalia and grow equipment were seized after Mounties responded to a break and enter on Tamerack Circle in Lower

Sackville on Monday night. The RCMP integrated drug unit was called and issued a warrant to remove the plants. There have been no arrests. **METRO HALIFAX**

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Population decline spurs discussion

DEMOGRAPHICS A group of Nova Scotia municipalities, chambers of commerce and development authorities are banding together to figure out how to cope with severe population decline in the province.

The groups met in Wolfville on Tuesday to discuss the impending demographic crisis — which experts say will cause a 31.5 per cent drop in the number of school-aged children and a 30 per cent drop in university-aged students in Nova Scotia over the next 15 years.

According to Tim Tucker, executive director of the Nova Scotia Chambers of Commerce, the result will be fewer people entering the workforce.

"This challenge is real and requires us all to roll up our sleeves and take action," Tucker said in a release. "We all have a role to play."

METRO HALIFAX

Sackville man facing child pornography charges named

Halifax Regional Police have released the name of a Sackville man charged last month with child pornography offences. David Ouellett is facing charges of accessing, possessing and producing child pornography after searches were conducted in Halifax and at a home on Smokey Drive in Lower Sackville. **METRO HALIFAX**



Andrew LeFrank, left, and Daniel Foucher, right, from the Canada Border Services Agency answer questions along with RCMP Supt. Brian Brennan, centre, at a press conference at RCMP headquarters in Halifax. More than 200 kilograms of cocaine worth more than \$10 million were seized at the Port of Halifax this week.

Drugs worth \$10M seized

Cocaine hidden in container

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Police at the Port of Halifax have seized over 200 kilograms of cocaine hidden in the back of a shipping container.

The drugs, which officials believe were shipped by an organized crime ring, have an estimated street value of over \$10 million, border services agents said Thursday.

"They arrived in Canada on Feb. 8 on a vessel originating in Chile," said Andrew LeFrank, director of the Nova Scotia district of the Canadian Border Services Agency. "A significant seizure of this amount obviously means there's a great quantity of drugs that won't be reaching our streets."

The cocaine was wrapped in 22 long, cylindrical packages and then stuffed into six large bags that showed up on X-ray scans of the inside of the container, LeFrank said.

"We were conducting an examination on the waterfront and we selected some of the containers for in-

spection," he explained. "Officers recognized that there was something in the container that didn't look like it was supposed to be there."

What was supposed to be there was common household mouldings, arranged on pallets. The ship made one stop in Peru after leaving port in Chile, officials said, but it's still unclear where the drugs were loaded into the container — or where they were supposed to end up.

"As it stands right now there's no indication of any specific destination," said Supt. Brian Brennan, the RCMP's federal policing officer in Nova Scotia. "Traditionally, large shipments of drugs coming into the port are then distributed (to the rest of Canada)."

According to LeFrank, a seizure of this magnitude is rare — but not unheard of in Halifax.

The cocaine has now been turned over to the RCMP, which will be conducting an investigation before destroying the entire shipment. No arrests have been made in connection with the seizure.

Scammers target grandparents

AMY BOND
For Metro Halifax

CRIME The Better Business Bureau in the Maritimes is issuing a warning for seniors to be wary if a "grandchild" calls asking for money.

In a release issued Thursday, the BBB said scammers have been targeting grandparents across the Maritimes by calling them, posing as their grandchild-

dren, and asking for money — otherwise known as "the grandparent scam".

The release said scammers have been "frantically" calling these grandparents, posing as their grandchildren claiming they have caused a car accident or were arrested. They are also posing as a police officer or lawyer. The Bureau said grandparents have lost thousands of dollars thinking their grandchild needs help.

The BBB advises if you get a call from somebody claiming to be your grandchild in distress, don't disclose any information unless you are certain it's them.

They also say if you're a victim of this North American scam, report the incident immediately to local police.

Post your comments about this and other stories at:
metronews.ca

News in brief

FIRE A vacant older home sitting directly in front of a new home on the same property suffered extensive damage from fire Thursday. Halifax regional fire spokesman Capt. Dave Meldrum said crews were called to a fire inside the house just before 4 p.m. He said the home suffered "pretty significant damage" because of heavy fire that made its way up to the roof. Fire investigators were at the scene after the fire was quickly put out looking for a cause. There was no one inside the home. **METRO HALIFAX**

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The Nova Scotia Government & General Employees Union announced Thursday a donation of \$10,000 on behalf of its membership to Oxfam to assist efforts in the earthquake ravaged country of Haiti. The money will go to improve water and sanitation for the people living there, a NSGEU release said. **METRO HALIFAX**

News in brief

TOUR Finance Minister Graham Steele announced the dates and locations for his final four financial public meetings and it

includes a stop in Halifax. Left out of the initial list, Steele will now end his Back to Balance tour with a stop Sat., Feb. 27

from 2-4 p.m. at the Halifax Forum Multipurpose Centre. Other stops are in Truro, Amherst and Tantallon. **METRO HALIFAX**

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Suspect sought by police in Dartmouth store robbery.

Police seek aid to ID suspect

Convenience store hit in January

Halifax Regional Police are asking for the public's help in identifying a robbery suspect from an incident last month.

Police say on Jan. 17 at 6:55 a.m., the man pictured in the above photo entered the Needs Convenience store at 182 Victoria Road in Dartmouth and said he had a gun. He demanded cigarettes and money from the clerk, police allege, and fled the

scene.

He is described as a white man aged between 18 and 21, around five feet 10 inches and was wearing a dark baseball hat, a grey hooded sweatshirt and blue track pants.

Anyone with information on the man pictured in the photo is asked to contact Halifax police at 490-5016 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477.

METRO HALIFAX

Friday sentencing for drunk driver

COURT A serial drunk driver will learn his fate Friday in regards to his latest conviction.

Terry Naugle — described by Crown prosecutor Cheryl Byard as "the worst of the worst known offenders in Nova Scotia" for impaired driving — will be sentenced Friday afternoon at Dartmouth provincial court stemming from an incident last March.

The Crown is seeking a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison for the 52-year-old Naugle, five for impaired driving and five for driving while prohibited. The defence is arguing for four years.

In the past 30 years, Naugle's history consists of 22 drunk driving-related convictions. That includes a hit-and-run when Naugle's vehicle struck and hit the McMillan family on March 29, 2009. **METRO HALIFAX**

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N.B. minister resigns from cabinet

New Brunswick's justice minister has resigned from cabinet as the result of a breach of privacy that occurred when he was minister of local government. The Opposition Conservatives called for the resignation of Bernard LeBlanc after an email was released identifying a complainant in an animal abuse case. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

7

Canada



Florists deal with trio of events

Since the Winter Olympics has competition from Valentine's Day and Chinese Lunar New Year, it looked like a perfect storm for Vancouver florists. Some downtown florists say they're getting orders for cheap red-and-white bouquets from customers who want them in hand for rink tossing at the figure skating venue. But with Valentine's Day fast approaching, business in red roses was slow.

Buy American deal bashed

Deal opens up Ontario contracts to foreign bidders: Union



Jim Prentice, minister of the Environment and minister responsible for southern Alberta, talks to reporters at a media scrum in Calgary on Thursday.

Ontario must reject a new trade agreement that allows Canadian companies to be temporarily exempt from the Buy American elements of Washington's stimulus package, critics demanded Thursday after releasing a leaked copy of the bilateral agreement.

The one-sided deal will eventually give foreign companies permanent access to publicly funded contracts in areas like schools and hospitals that were previously closed to them, while the province is getting very little in return, they said.

\$73B The deal will open about \$10 billion worth of Ontario projects to the U.S. and about \$73 billion worth of American projects to Ontario businesses, Premier Dalton McGuinty added.

In exchange, Canadian companies will get access to a small pot of U.S. stimulus funding, most of which has already been spoken for, said Fred Hahn, Ontario president of the Canadian Union of Public Employees.

"It binds us forever to opening procurement," he said.

"This isn't just about

some short-term deal to get access to money that ... is practically all committed. Alongside it is a forever agreement. That's not something that I think anybody in the province of Ontario thinks we're signing up for."

Only Ontario and Quebec have included procurement contracts for schools, hospitals, universities and social services in the agreement, according to the leaked documents.

But Quebec has a clause that exempts anything that pertains to culture, said Stewart Trew of the Council of Canadians.

"We have questions about why Ontario's Crown corporation responsible for water utility management maintenance has been included into its list of committed agencies," he said.

Bans on bottled water, "buy local" food initiatives and fair wage policies in Ontario may all come under attack from U.S. and foreign companies as a result, Hahn said.

Premier Dalton McGuinty defended the deal, insisting it would protect energy, hospitals and universities, with similar exemptions on both sides.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Oilsands need to get greener: Prentice

ENERGY Federal Environment Minister Jim Prentice says outside criticism of Alberta's oilsands will continue unless there is a constant effort to improve their environmental impact.

He was responding to an announcement by U.S. organic food store Whole Foods and home furnishings chain Bed, Bath and Beyond that they will not buy fuel derived from the oilsands.

Prentice says the companies have made their decisions and he won't try to reach out to them.

But he says it's Canada's responsibility to push back against such criticisms and make it clear to the rest of the world that the country is doing the right thing environmentally.

Ads or a story?

• The Sierra Club of Canada has filed a complaint with the Advertising Standards Council that alleges Canwest tried to hide the fact articles on the oilsands that ran in several of its 11 major dailies were paid for by Shell Canada.

He says Canada should continue to aspire to be an energy superpower, but the country also needs to up its game on the environmental front.

Prentice pointed out that while Canada has environmental challenges with the oilsands, coal-fired power plants in the United States produce significantly more emissions. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Police search colonel's home

CRIME Forensic investigators from the Ontario Provincial Police spent hours Thursday combing through the Ottawa home of an air force colonel charged in the murders of two women and the sexual assaults of two others.

Plainclothes officers carrying boxes arrived at the house shared by Col. Russell Williams and his wife shortly after noon. Williams, the former commander of Canada's largest military airfield, Canadian Forces Base Trenton, was arrested Sunday in Ottawa.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

PENSIONS Ottawa needs to break the deadlock in reforming the pension system by taking some first steps in next month's budget, says a new report from the C.D. Howe Institute. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

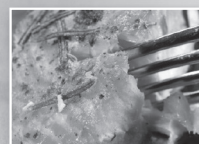
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The Ontario government paid nearly \$700,000 for an ad campaign aimed at promoting its controversial plan to harmonize sales taxes. Newly released documents show that the government paid Narrative Advocacy Media \$95,000 to provide "strategic communication" and shelled out over \$600,000 for online ads. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

News in brief

WILLIAMS A poll says those closest to Newfoundland and Labrador Premier Danny Williams are most supportive of his trip to the U.S. for heart surgery. A new Canadian Press/Harris Decima survey found 65 per cent of Atlantic Canadians said Williams's trip was appropriate. Overall, 44 per cent of Canadians supported the premier's decision. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Canada a safe investment: Report

BANKS A new bank report says Canada is well-positioned to take advantage of the debt crisis in Europe and growing fiscal problems in the U.S. The CIBC says Canada is increasingly being seen as a safe harbour in the looming global debt storm. The bank says Ottawa's fiscal position already com-

pares favourably with most of Europe and the U.S. and will only improve over the next few years.

As well, a stable loonie will add to Canada's lure for foreign investors, the chartered bank says.

In a separate report, the Conference Board of Canada urges businesses to start

thinking globally and take advantage of trade opportunities abroad. The Ottawa-based think-tank says Canadian exporters need a new post-recession strategy that takes advantage of its relative strengths to build international value chains and attract foreign direct investment. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



Foreign Affairs Minister Lawrence Cannon arrives for a press conference at the Department of Foreign Affairs in Ottawa on Thursday.

Cannon prods China on Iran issue

Minister says Asian nation should lead in nuke talks

China needs to use its clout to curb Iran's pursuit of nuclear power, Foreign Affairs Minister Lawrence Cannon said Thursday, refusing to rule out further sanctions against the Islamic regime.

"I think the Chinese need to step up to the plate here. China, of course, is a very highly regarded partner with Iran," Cannon said in an exclusive interview with The Canadian Press.

Speaking in his corner of office overlooking west Quebec, he said he expects the issue to dominate discussions among G8 foreign ministers to be held next month just across the river.

Last week, Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi said sanctions against Iran would be counterproductive to ending Tehran's nuclear ambitions.

Jiechi said countries can pursue peaceful nuclear energy as long as they conform to UN oversight by the International Atomic Energy Agency. But that is something Iran has not done.

"As China commits to IAEA obligations they will be in a good position to be able to influence," Cannon said.

Cannon said he expects the G8 ministers to be seized with the Iranian nu-

Canada, Russia

- Canada has joined Russia and the U.S. in condemning Iran's nuclear ambitions. Prime Minister Stephen Harper says he spoke with Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin on Thursday and says they both expressed their grave concerns about the danger the Iranian regime poses while building its nuclear capabilities.

clear question and to come out with a strong statement when they convene in Gatineau, Que., next month.

Cannon called on Iran to cease uranium enrichment and open up to UN inspections in order to re-establish some credibility with the global community.

"We're deeply disappointed with Iran's attitude. Certainly their blatant contempt and their complete disregard for the international community is very worrisome," Cannon said in the interview.

"When you do this, when you enrich your uranium you have obligations ... Iran must stop this contemptuous attitude towards the international community."

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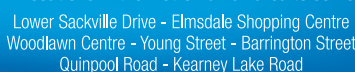
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World

Based in North Carolina, Blackwater is now known as Xe Services, a name change that happened after six of the security firm's guards were charged in the shooting. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

The release of Mandela was the culmination of an eventful few days for South Africa. On Feb. 2, 1990, President F.W. de Klerk announced the unbanning of the African National Congress. On Feb. 10, de Klerk announced that Mandela would be released the next day.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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Solar observatory takes maiden voyage into space

The most advanced solar observatory ever built rocketed into space yesterday on a five-year quest to shed light on Earth's star. It was NASA's second launch in four days. On Monday, Endeavour blasted off to the International Space Station. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



U.S. troops walk by a mine-resistant vehicle in southern Afghanistan yesterday.

U.S. attack on Taliban nears

Troops prepare for 'biggest offensive' of nine-year war

U.S. and Afghan soldiers linked up with Marines on the outskirts of the Taliban stronghold of Marjah yesterday, sealing off escape routes and setting the stage for what is being described as the biggest offensive of the nine-year war.

Taliban defenders re-

peatedly fired rockets and mortars at units poised in foxholes along the edge of the town, apparently trying to lure NATO forces into skirmishes before the big attack.

"They're trying to draw us in," said Capt. Joshua Winfrey, 30, of Tulsa, Okla., commander of Lima

Company, 3rd Battalion, 6th Marines.

Up to 1,000 militants are believed holed up in Marjah, a key Taliban logistics base and centre of the lucrative opium poppy

About Marjah

• Marjah is a town of about 80,000 people in the Helmand province where Taliban presence is particularly high.

trade. But the biggest threats are likely to be the land mines and bombs.

The precise date for the attack has been kept secret.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Rain soaks thousands in Haiti shelters

HAITI A pre-dawn rain shower soaked tens of thousands living in rudimentary shelters in Haiti's capital yesterday, a taste of the havoc a sustained downpour could wreak on this earthquake-ravaged country.

Rain collapsed cardboard shacks and soaked bedding

at the Marassa 14 camp, where about 2,500 displaced people live in a dry riverbed.

The UN says an estimated 1.2 million people live in temporary camps in Haiti, most in structures made of bed sheets and plastic sheeting.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

U.S. An explosion of a transformer underneath a Manhattan sidewalk sent flames up the front of a landmark building yesterday, shattering windows and blacken-

ing the facade of several stories. No injuries were reported as of yesterday. An investigation was under way into the cause

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Comment

Policy not always best reality for kids

UrbanCompass



Stephen Kimber

For Family Court Judge Beryl MacDonald, the question seemed simple. Does she have the authority to order the minister of community services to provide a service the department, by policy, doesn't offer? Her answer, delivered

during a family court hearing this week, was equally simple. She does not.

The legal issue may be simple; the case is anything but. And her defensible judicial answer may conflict with what is the ultimate goal of our child protection legislation: The best interests of the child.

The case involves a troubled Cole Harbour teenager whose grandparents raised him. Two years ago, when they realized they could no longer cope — he has serious psychological problems — they sought help from community services. In-

stead, the government assumed his guardianship and — because Nova Scotia doesn't have secure long-term youth facilities — shipped him off to Bayfield, an Ontario institution "for boys experiencing difficulties."

His grandparents objected and acted as the boy's advocates. That made them intruders in the government's and the institution's father-knows-best care program.

At one point, after the grandmother complained publicly about his treatment, Bayfield refused her a face-to-face visit. Bayfield has occasionally cut off all

communications between the child and his grandparents.

These days, phone contact is tightly controlled and monitored. A recent note from Bayfield staff claims one conversation "was beginning to turn negative as it was ending." This apparently referred to the fact the grandmother "asked about his medication again, and was more assertive that he she did not believe he should just be taking medication whenever he wanted."

Doctors at Bayfield, who have prescribed Seroquel

XR, an antipsychotic medication, allow the boy to take some of his daily dosage "as needed." The province has authorized a dosage of up to 850 mg per day. According to the website healthcentral.com, "the safety of doses above 800 mg/day has not been evaluated in clinical trial." Drugs.com says Seroquel XR "should not be given to anyone younger than 18 years old."

The grandparents are just as concerned by what they see as escalating "incidents" of violence where Bayfield staff "restrained" the boy. My non-legal question is

equally simple: Is this boy better off now than he was when he left Nova Scotia? What will he be like in three years when he becomes an adult and Bayfield spits him back out — as it has other Nova Scotia children.

The judge may see this as a narrow legal question. The Minister of Community Services should see it as a larger question. Is what her department doing in the best interest of this — or any other — child?

Stephen Kimber, the Rogers Communications Chair in Journalism at the University of Kings College, is the author of eight books.

Views

Spotting a 'growing' problem in homes

Marketplace



Erica Johnson

metronews.ca/johnson

Do a quick Google search of "marijuana grow-ops" in Canada, and the headlines pop up. In just the past month: "RCMP estimate as many as 10,000 grow-ops in British Columbia," "Mounties encounter more sophisticated grow-ops," "Halifax police charge six in grow-op." And on they go.

There's no denying, Canada has become a "source country" for marijuana. Meaning, there's lots of money to be made, largely by organized crime.

And where are criminals

setting up shop? Step outside your house. Look down the block to the left. Then look to the right. Chances are, a house near you is hiding a grow-op secret.

So what happens when the police bust these homes? Or when the growers figure it's time to move on? Often, these houses get quickly patched up and put on the market, leaving the next homebuyer stuck with expensive problems — like mould, dangerous wiring, and structural damage.

If you think hiring a home inspector is going to protect you, think again. Some are trained to spot the grow-op warning signs, but many have no idea what to look for. And accreditation or other fancy titles aren't much of a guarantee either. Watch what happens Friday night when we invite in-

spectors to a bait house, to spot obvious grow-op warning signs. One claims to be an engineer, two are certified and another is a registered home inspector. By the end of the show, you'll probably learn to do a better job spotting a grow-op cover-up than they do.

So when it comes time to hire a home inspector, there are a few things to ask.

Firstly, what kind of experience does the inspector have? If they don't have much, that's a big red flag.

What kind of training do they have? And is it relevant? That's key — even if someone is an engineer, it doesn't mean they're qualified to inspect a home.

Are they independent? Never hire a home inspector who's been referred by a real estate agent — they may feel obliged to help sell

a house in bad condition. The inspector also shouldn't be part of a construction or homebuilder group, or offer repair services themselves.

What kind of equipment does the home inspector bring along? They should have a camera, binoculars, a ladder, maybe even an infrared camera. Their reports should include photographs, and include detailed explanations of what's been found.

Lastly, can you follow them around during an inspection? A good inspector will encourage you to take part, and will clearly communicate any serious problems — not bury them in a checklist.

Erica Johnson is a journalist and co-host of CBC News: Marketplace, Canada's award-winning consumer affairs show. CBC News: Marketplace airs each Friday night at 8:30 p.m. on CBC Television.



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FROM

Manulife Financial Corp. reported Thursday an \$868-million profit in the fourth quarter, reversing a big loss racked up by the Canadian life insurance giant in the same period a year earlier, when it was hurt by weak equity markets. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

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EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Retail chain to close down stores

SALES Liquidation World Inc. plans to reduce the number of stores it operates to 91 by the end of this fiscal quarter, down from 96 currently, the company said Thursday.

Up to eight stores will be closed and three new stores opened during the quarter, it said. The closures were announced along with Liquidation

World's latest financial report, for the fiscal first quarter ended Jan. 3.

Revenue in the quarter was \$44.1 million, from \$47.1 million in the first quarter of fiscal 2009.

Same-store sales, a key comparison of locations that have been open at least a year, declined by \$3.8 million. During the most recent quarter, Liquidation

World opened five new stores.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Blockbuster earnings

Avatar helps Cineplex net \$9.5M in last quarter

A slate of high-profile blockbusters helped Canada's biggest movie theatre exhibitor Cineplex Galaxy Income Fund pull off a stronger fourth quarter and a record year in both box-office receipts and concession sales.

The Toronto-based income trust said Thursday that quarterly earnings were \$9.5 million for the

period ended Dec. 31, helped by the early results from James Cameron's Avatar, which was playing in theatres during the last 13 days of the quarter.

The quarterly earnings were a 37 per cent increase from \$6.9 million a year before.

Avatar was the No. 1 performing film

in the quarter generating 11.8 per cent of total box-office revenue, said president and CEO Ellis Jacob. Since then, Avatar has gone on to become the top grossing film of all time, bringing in more than \$2 billion US globally so far.

The film's box-office results have been helped by premium ticket prices for both its digital 3-D and Imax 3-D versions, which can be sold for about \$3 to \$5 more than the average movie ticket.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business in brief

PENSIONS The Canada Pension Plan Fund reported assets of \$123.9 billion at the end of its third quarter, as it recovered

from a fall to \$108.9 billion a year earlier when plummeting stock markets caused a loss of 6.7 per cent.

The fund said it generated \$2.2 billion in investment income during the quarter ended Dec. 31.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Lions sunk by Mariners

The Halifax Lions fell 7-2 to the Yarmouth Mariners in Maritime Junior A Hockey League action on Thursday night at the Forum. Wayne Bedeck and Kyle Dilosa scored in the loss. **METRO HALIFAX**

13

Sports

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA



Ryan gets the job

Halifax Lions head coach and general manager Troy Ryan has been named head coach of Team Canada East for next year's world junior A hockey challenge. The event will be held in November, with the location to be announced.

METRO HALIFAX



Dartmouth's Sarah Conrad competes in the women's World Cup snowboard halfpipe event in Canmore, Alta., on Jan. 30.

A dark horse and a star: Nova Scotia's Olympians

MATTHEW WUEST
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

One is being counted on to win gold; the other is admittedly entering the Olympics as a dark horse.

But together, Cole Harbour hockey superstar Sidney Crosby and Dartmouth snowboarder Sarah Conrad will carry Nova Scotia's colours at the Winter Olympics in Vancouver.

It's Crosby's first Olympics and Conrad's second.

"I've really had my sights set on Vancouver," said the 24-year-old Conrad. "I'm really excited to compete on home soil and have the home town, home country behind me."

Canadian fans, rightly or wrongly, expect nothing less than gold from Crosby

and the men's hockey team after a disappointing finish at the Turin Games in 2006.

The Pittsburgh Penguins captain looks up to the task, fourth in NHL scoring with 74 points in 59 games.

Conrad, a half-pipe rider who placed 16th in Turin, has had a strong season, including a fourth-place finish at a World Cup last month. But she isn't in the spotlight like Crosby.

"There hasn't been as much focus on the pipe team," said Conrad. "We've been off the hook for a lot of media requests and we're coming in as dark horses. I like that better."

The puck drops for Crosby next Tuesday against Norway, while Conrad is set to compete next Thursday.

Herd stronger in home stretch

HOCKEY The Halifax Mooseheads are inching closer to playing .500 hockey as the QMJHL season starts to wind down.

With 13 games left, the Mooseheads are 5-4-2 in their past 11 games as they head to Quebec for games on Saturday and Sunday at 5 p.m. against the Rimouski Oceanic.

They edged the P.E.I. Rocket 5-4 in a shootout on Wednesday in a game they didn't feel they deserved.

"We've been playing pretty good lately," said Mooseheads assistant captain Pascal Amyot. "Even though we won against P.E.I., it didn't reflect the way we've been playing. We were play-

ing really well up until then and we've got to learn from that and give our best effort on the weekend."

The Mooseheads won four straight games in November but haven't enjoyed prolonged success like this all season. They're still last in the QMJHL with a 13-37-5 record, but are five points from catching the Baie-Comeau Drakkar and 10 behind the Lewiston Maineics for the final playoff spot.

A couple of wins this weekend would change the picture.

"We're looking for four points," said Mooseheads winger Gabriel Desjardins.

MATTHEW WUEST
METRO HALIFAX

'Two pieces of a puzzle'

Gallimore a good fit with defence-minded Rainmen coach

MATTHEW WUEST
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

Garry Gallimore, the defensive specialist, was a natural fit with Les Berry, the defensive tactician.

"Like two pieces of a puzzle," joked Gallimore.

The Halifax Rainmen, coached by Berry, are one of the stingiest defensive teams in the Premier Basketball League this season, and Gallimore, a two-time Atlantic University Sport defensive player of the year, has helped lead the effort.

Berry, a former Acadia Axemen bench boss, was all too familiar with Gallimore from their days in the AUS. Gallimore, a six-foot-two guard, stymied Berry's Axemen regularly en route to three championships with the X-Men.

"Les knows me very well — I've been the guy who's been smacking his teams around in the AUS," Gallimore laughed. "Everybody told me I'd like playing for Les Berry because he's very defensive-minded and I've always loved playing for coaches who put an emphasis on defence."

Gallimore, an Ottawa native, spent the 2007-'08 season in Belgium before taking last year off. But he stayed in shape and made the Rainmen as a walk-on at training camp.

He averages 13:26 of floor time per game, but Berry relies heavily on his former nemesis in the closing moments of games. In the final 17 minutes, the well-built, fierce competitor averages eight minutes, 17 seconds and he's been on



Garry Gallimore has been a key defensive contributor for the Rainmen this year.

the floor for the final minute of all but two of nine games so far.

"That's the most crucial part of the game," he said. "That's when you need to close the game out, at the end of the third and into the fourth. That's when the game is won."

Gallimore, who averages 4.4 points and 2.3 rebounds per game, said he thrives in those situations.

Sunday's game

- The second-place Halifax Rainmen (7-2) host the second-to-last Manchester Millrats (2-7) in Premier Basketball League action at the Metro Centre on Sunday. Game time is 4 p.m.

"Most definitely, man," he said. "I'm a gamer." The 25-year-old is a for-

mer member of Canada's under-21 national team and is thrilled to be continuing his career with the Rainmen. He doesn't plan on quitting anytime soon.

"I'm working to get to the highest level I can before I retire," he said. "Whether that's with the national team or staying here with the Rainmen, that's what I'm aiming for."

Tigers have basketball fate in their hands this weekend

AUS Pete Belliveau gets right to the point on the importance of this weekend to his Dalhousie Tigers.

"It's our biggest weekend in six years," said the second-year head coach of Dalhousie's men's hockey team. "We control our own destiny ... We can make the playoffs, and it's a known

fact, we haven't made the playoffs in six years."

The Tigers, 8-14-4, are sixth in Atlantic University Sport with 20 points, one point ahead of the Moncton Aigles Bleus and four points ahead of the St. Thomas Tommies. They don't have tiebreakers over either of those teams, meaning they need victo-

ries and need them badly to make the cut.

The Tigers are on the road against the P.E.I. Panthers on Friday and the nationally top-ranked New Brunswick Varsity Reds — who are an astonishing 26-0 — on Saturday.

If Dal gets in, a playoff matchup with the third-place Saint Mary's Huskies

would likely be waiting for them. The two teams haven't met in the playoffs since the 2002 AUS final.

"Honestly, I couldn't care less about who we play," Belliveau said bluntly.

"Just give us a playoff spot."

MATTHEW WUEST
METRO HALIFAX

14 sports

Bryant, Iverson to miss all-star game

The NBA says Kobe Bryant of the Los Angeles Lakers and Allen Iverson of the Philadelphia 76ers won't play in the all-star game this weekend. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Where the dreams began

Bosh returns home as both a changed man and player

Chris Bosh left Dallas a gangly teen with hopes and dreams but no expectations; no real feel for what the world held for him or how long it would take him to find out where he fit in it.

He returns this weekend not as a conquering hero but close to one, maybe the best basketball player Dallas has ever produced — a dominant, five-time NBA all-star.

Not bad for a kid who was not much thicker than a twig when he left Lincoln High School for Georgia Tech eight years ago with no idea what he would

morph into and who could only dream about becoming what he's become.

"I was thinking it was two to three years that I was going to be in school," Bosh said in an interview this week. "Everything was just hoping and wishing."

That was a different mentality. It was like, 'Maybe I can make the league, I want to do this and maybe I want to do that.' You just hope for everything."

A lot of what Bosh had hoped for has indeed come true for the 25-year-old Raptors power forward. He's about to play in his fourth all-star game (he was selected to the team one other time but forced out of the game due to injury) and he's won an Olympic gold medal. He's having his best season ever for the Rap-

tors, averaging career highs in points and rebounds and emerging as a dominant force in nearly every game.

He will be one of the most coveted free agents on the market this summer, a fact that has Raptors fans worried about losing another "franchise player."

Not bad for a relative kid who should have as much as a decade left in his career.

"For me, it happened kind of fast, it got accelerated kind of fast," Bosh said.

"I'm still a young dude and I get to do all this stuff. Get to play in the all-star game ... be on this (Toronto) team, be a leader."

"It's pretty cool what's happened."

TORSTAR
NEWS SERVICE

Troubled Portsmouth facing big threat from neighbour

With Portsmouth in danger of going out of business and finishing last in the Premier League, it might appear things couldn't get much worse.

Now comes the threat of being knocked out of the cup by third division Southampton, its bitter south coast neighbour.

A day after Portsmouth temporarily survived a winding up order, gaining at least another week to try and pay off tax debts, coach Avram Grant and his players were able to concentrate Thursday on beating Southampton.

Their opponents have also had their cash problems. They received a 10-point punishment this season for going into financial administration but have lost only six of 28 games in League One. With local bragging rights at stake, Southampton will be tough to beat at its St. Mary's stadium on Saturday.

Portsmouth midfielder Richard Hughes believes the extra interest of facing its neighbour will lift some of the gloom of the club's financial plight.

"It was the draw I was hoping for," he said. "And, to be absolutely honest, although the fans would have loved for a chance to welcome them back to our patch, I'm pleased to be



"The opportunity to go to our old friends and hopefully turn them over in their backyard is extra special." Portsmouth midfielder

Richard Hughes on facing Southampton

playing them away from home.

"We've yet to beat them at St. Mary's and so the opportunity to go to our old friends and hopefully turn them over in their backyard is extra special."

This is the first time in almost five years that the two teams have met because Southampton was relegated from the top flight in 2005 and even slipped into the third division this season.

"The derby is a match that I've always most enjoyed in my time at Portsmouth," Hughes said. "It's always quite a lively day and the one disappointment that came from them going down is that we haven't been able to play them since."

Portsmouth faced seven-time European champion Milan in last season's UEFA Cup having won the FA Cup the season before.

Since then, its fortunes have nosedived, especially after the departure of manager Harry Redknapp to Tottenham last season. With only 16 points from

25 games, Portsmouth has six fewer than anyone else and is eight away from safety.

With Manchester United, Arsenal and Liverpool all knocked out of the competition, the race to the May 15 final at Wembley appears wide open.

Defending champion Chelsea is the hot favourite, however, and hosts League Championship club Cardiff on Saturday.

Manchester City, still looking for its first major title since the 1976 League Cup, remains another leading FA contender and hosts Stoke on Saturday. Tottenham, which has won the cup eight times but not since 1991, goes to Bolton on Sunday also seeking a place in the quarter-final.

Aston Villa has won the oldest and most famous cup competition seven times but not since 1957.

It should be confident of reaching the last eight with a game at second division Crystal Palace, which is another club in financial difficulty.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports in brief

BASEBALL Outfielder Corey Hart has become the first player on the Milwaukee Brewers to go to arbitration in 12 years. Hart asked a panel of arbitrators Thursday for a raise to \$4.8 million US from \$3.25 million. The Brewers countered with an offer of \$4.15 million.

BASEBALL Tom Glavine has rejoined the Atlanta Braves as special assistant to president John Schuerholz. The 43-year-old former pitcher will work with Schuerholz on baseball and business projects and will occasionally assist general manager Frank Wren and manager Bobby Cox.

CFL Marcel Bellefeuille was recognized Thursday for leading the Hamilton Tiger-Cats to their first home playoff game in eight years, being named as one of three finalists for the CFL's coach of the year award.

Joining him are Marc Trestman of the Grey Cup champion Montreal Alouettes, and Ken Miller, who guided the Saskatchewan Roughriders to the West Division title.

NBA The NBA says Kobe Bryant of the Los Angeles Lakers and Allen Iverson of the Philadelphia 76ers won't play in the all-star game this weekend.

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What to watch on Friday

Here's a look at some of Friday's TV highlights at the Winter Olympics: 2 p.m.: Ski jumping normal hill individual 1st round (Sportsnet), 10 p.m. to 1 a.m.: Opening ceremonies (CTV, TSN, Sportsnet). **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Vancouver Games

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

The waiting is over

When most people hold their breath, they turn blue.

For the millions of Canadians waiting for the start of the 2010 Winter Olympics on Friday, they've been turning red. The nation has waited for more than 20 years for these Olympics to finally claim a prize denied twice before: an Olympic gold medal on home soil.

In this simple piece of metal are cast the hopes and dreams of the country and by the time the Olympics begin, Canada will be full to bursting with anticipation.

And that's exactly how the Vancouver Olympic organizing committee wants it.

When they bid for the Games in 2003, said VANOC chief executive officer John Furlong, it was with a very distinct vision.

"We thought we could be a nation builder," he said. "The Games could be

a moment in time for Canada where every Canadian could feel like they had participated in not just watching this and cheering it on, but in actual fact playing a role in helping it be successful."

Together with the federal government and Canadian Olympic Committee officials Vancouver organizers ran the ambitious Own the Podium program, a \$117 million effort to ensure Canada wins more medals than any other country at these Games.

Canadian figure skaters Jessica Dube and Bryce Davison

It was a gutsy move for an organizing committee, whose job in the past has been merely to act as the gracious host for the world and show off a little bit of their country's charm while they're at it.

"It's not something that we recommend an organizing committee do. You have to put resources to that, it costs you money, it costs you resources, it costs you a lot of effort," said Gilbert Felli, the IOC's executive director

of Games. "But they have done it, and they have done it very well and we are very pleased about it."

The goal wasn't just to change the way the country feels about sport, but about itself, said Dave Cobb, deputy executive director for the organizing committee.

"I think it has become accepted in this country that it's all right to say we want to be No. 1," he said.

"But to do it in a way that's not arrogant, not necessarily expected everywhere."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Cauldron lighting demands greatness

Field of Play

Scott Russell
metronews.ca/fieldofplay

Keep this in mind when thinking about the lighting of the Olympic cauldron.

Few rules govern the process.

In the past we've witnessed an archer, a flying ski jumper and a gymnast circling the roof of a Bird's Nest, as they performed the solemn ritual. There's been more than a little gimmickry reflected in the flames that have presided over previous Olympic gatherings.

Not this time. Only greatness will do.

Here's a theory to fuel the debate as all Canadians rekindle the fires of their Olympic passion. There will be not one but four torches on the day and they will concurrently gather around the cauldron to set a celebration of Canadian Olympic history ablaze.

They will be iconic figures spanning generations in a land of ice and snow. Included in their ranks will be the defining Olympians of a winter nation.

"The Great One," will be there.

How could Wayne Gretzky, our seminal hockey player, not be? He is synonymous with the game and the country and by assembling the team that delivered the first men's hock-

ey gold in 50 years in 2002, Gretzky forever cemented our loyalty.

Nancy Greene will make the cut. She spawned a fascination with skiing by winning gold at the 1968 Olympics. Every member of this year's alpine team emerged from the Nancy Greene Racing League that keeps the sport strong in Canada.

"Canada's Sweetheart," Barbara Ann Scott will grace the proceedings.

The only Canadian winner of individual figure skating gold, Scott's legacy endures. And she won in 1948 at St. Moritz as the World was healing the wounds of war. Barbara Ann Scott is a lock in my books.

As is speed skater Catriona Le May Doan.

She was known as "The Fastest Woman on Ice," the only Canadian Olympian, winter or summer, to have won gold medals in consecutive Games. Le May Doan's address to the IOC in 2003 swung the vote and helped get Vancouver/Whistler the Olympics in the first place.

Together they'll do it — our greatest skier, figure skater, speed skater and hockey player.

They are four strong symbols of the country and the Olympics who will gather the world around the roaring cauldron's light on opening night.

Gemini Award winner and author Scott Russell is the host of CBC Sports Weekend seen Saturday afternoons. A 20-year CBC Sports veteran, he has covered a variety of professional and amateur sports including nine Olympic games and numerous world championships.

Read their lips: Vocals will be synched, not dubbed

LIP-SYNCH Two years after piped-in vocals from a seven-year-old songbird touched off a controversy at the Beijing Games, Vancouver Olympic organizers are hoping to avoid a similar scandal by being clear about plans for the 2010 opening ceremonies.

Yes, VANOC says, performers will lip-synch at Fri-

day's festivities. But they're also quick to point out the distinction between that method and the dubbing that inspired such outrage in Beijing.

In 2008, a button-cute nine-year-old girl's stirring rendition of Ode to the Motherland was among the highlights of the extravagant opening ceremonies.

But when it was revealed that the vocal was actually delivered by another child — the seven-year-old, tucked away off-screen because producers didn't consider her telegenic — newspapers around the world condemned the fakery.

But David Atkins, executive producer of the Vancouver opening cere-

monies, points out that what happened in China was actually dubbing, not lip-synching — the distinction being that lip-synching involves a singer mimicking a backing track of his or her own voice, while dubbing means misrepresenting someone else's voice as the singer's own.

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Vancouver Games



Canada, U.S. ready to do it all over again

Women's hockey squads set to add new chapter to longstanding rivalry

If the players on the American women's hockey team are out to avenge their loss on home ice to Canada at the 2002 Olympics, they're not saying so.

Canada and the United States are the top-ranked teams in any women's hockey event, and their now 20-year-old rivalry will add another chapter beginning Saturday at the 2010 Winter Games.

The Americans can do in Vancouver what the Canadians did in Salt Lake City eight years ago — get an upset victory in the final in their dreaded rival's rink.

"I'm not focused on paying them back, just on playing my best hockey," three-time Olympian Julie Chu of the U.S. squad said Thursday. "We lost the gold medal, it happened to be on our soil, and here we want to put ourselves in position to be in the gold medal game.

"They're not only the defending gold medallist, they're hosting, and it's their national sport — they have a lot on their shoulders. ... We have no pressure."

Team USA's Angela Ruggiero on the Canadian women

"Our goal is to win a gold medal, and if it's on Canadian soil, that's what it turns out to be."

It is the fourth time women's hockey will be a medal sport at the Olympics. The Americans beat Canada 3-1 in the first final in Nagano, Japan, in 1998, but Canada answered with a 3-2 victory four years later, despite an American referee who slapped Canada



Members of the U.S. women's hockey team look on during a press conference in Vancouver on Thursday. The team play China on Sunday.

with 13 minor penalties.

The U.S. hit a speed bump in 2006 in Turin, Italy, losing 3-2 to Sweden in the semifinals. Canada

beat the Swedes 4-1 to claim the gold medal and the Americans settled for bronze.

The setback prompted

changes in the American team, and 15 first-time Olympians are on the 21-player squad in Vancouver.

They check themselves now before discussing any impending meeting with Canada, knowing there are games that must be won against underdogs first — starting Sunday against China.

"You saw it in the last Games, we overlooked Sweden a bit, so we're focusing one game at a time," said Angela Ruggiero, who is at her fourth Olympics.

Still, Ruggiero is pleased to load any extra pressure she can on Canada.

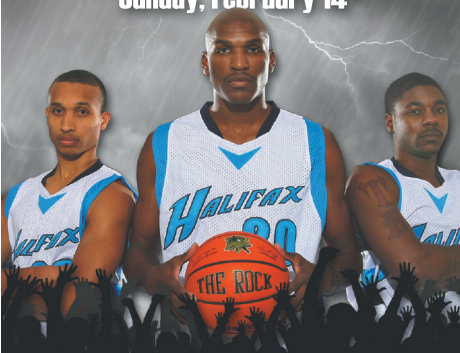
"They're not only the defending gold medallist, they're hosting, and it's their national sport — they have a lot on their shoulders," she said.

"They can deny it as much as they want, but there's the weight of a nation on them.

"We have no pressure. We know what we have to do to win."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Doping prevalent but no Canadians disqualified

CRACKDOWN More than 30 athletes have been dropped from Winter Olympic teams from around the world because of doping violations, the World Anti-Doping Agency said Thursday without divulging names, nationalities or sports.

There were no Canadians among them. But in separate anti-doping news Thursday, a Russian female hockey player received an official reprimand for using a banned stimulant.

Svetlana Terenteva tested positive for tuaminoheptane, a stimulant found in decongestant cold medicines.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Flame arrives at Vancouver's city hall

RELAY The Olympic flame has arrived at Vancouver's city hall to hundreds of cheering spectators waving small Canadian flags.

Mayor Gregor Robertson was there to welcome the flame to Vancouver just as he was there to usher the flame on to Canadian soil when the run began in October.

Robertson told the crowd the moment they have been waiting for years has finally arrived. The torch will stay in Vancouver for the rest of the day, eventually reaching a massive community celebration planned in the city's downtown.

On Friday, it will be passed hand-to-hand among celebrities like Arnold Schwarzenegger and Canadian icons like Walter Gretzky, Wayne's



Firefighter Brian Bogdanovich carries the Olympic torch to Vancouver City Hall Thursday afternoon. Several hundred people showed up to cheer the torch's arrival.

father, before the flame is ushered to the stadium where it will light the cauldron to start the Games.

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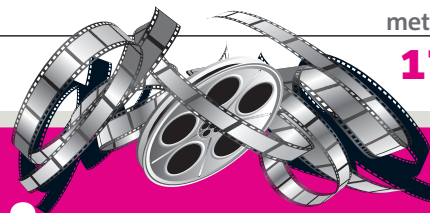
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17

Movies & Entertainment

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Movies

He's back

Pg 18



Leonardo DiCaprio and, as Leo puts it, 'master filmmaker' Martin Scorsese team up for a fourth time with *Shutter Island*.

Movies

Pg 19



Too many stars clutter up Valentine's Day plot.

Music

Pg 22



Steven Page dishes on first post-Barenaked Ladies CD.

Television

Pg 24



Stephen Colbert ready for his Olympians to compete.

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Movies

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More than thrills

Shutter takes DiCaprio to psychological depths

PHIL BROWN
for Metro Canada

The last time James Cameron made the most successful film of all time, he didn't emerge as the project's most famous face.

That fame fell on Leonardo DiCaprio, who was always uneasy about his superstar status.

In the decade since Titanic, DiCaprio has gone out of his way to embrace projects that force audiences to think of him as an actor rather than a celebrity. His primary partner in crime during this period has been legendary director Martin Scorsese.

The pair have made four films together, the most recent of which is Shutter Island (opening next week). DiCaprio loves working with the director because of his deep appreciation for

actors.

"The one thing that I don't think people understand about Scorsese is how much he believes in his actors," DiCaprio told Metro. "He's a master filmmaker, but he always lets the actors dictate what he puts up on the screen."

Following their Oscar-winning collaboration The Departed, Scorsese and DiCaprio decided to turn their attention to a thriller by Mystic River author Dennis Lehane.

On paper, Shutter Island seems like little more than a genre movie about a detective investigating a twisted mental institution. However, there are more than just thrills in the film — even if Scorsese and DiCaprio weren't completely con-

On the web



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scious of it when they signed on.

"Once we started to unravel who this man was and the nature of what was going on, it took us to places that we never could have foreseen," the actor said.

As DiCaprio worked on the film, the complexities of the project and his character began to peel away like an onion.

"When you read something a character can seem one way, but until you're actually on set doing it there's really no way to fully

Shutter Island opens next Friday



Actor Leonardo DiCaprio, left, and director Martin Scorsese team up for the fourth time in the psychological thriller Shutter Island, which opens in theatres next Friday.

ly understand him," admitted DiCaprio.

Careful not to give away the film's surprises, he continued, "We suddenly realized that we had to push certain boundaries that we didn't think we needed to initially.

Everything changed and there were a few weeks that I have to say were some of the most

hardcore filming experiences I've ever had. It was almost like reliving trauma.

"I don't say that sort of stuff very often because it always seems superficial when you're talking about a movie, but we really went to places unearthing who this man was that I didn't think we would get to."

Shutter Island should be a pleasant surprise for audiences, offering all of the suspense and entertainment expected from a thriller but with a psychological depth that isn't quite as common.

It's what attracted DiCaprio to the project and what he hopes audiences will appreciate.

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New Lampoon's Vacation flick

New Line is pushing ahead with its quest to reboot the much-loved National Lampoon's Vacation franchise. The studio has hired writing team Jonathan Goldstein and John Francis Daley to write a new Vacation flick. EMPIREONLINE.COM

Movies

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V-Day a little crowded

Star-studded cast offers a few compelling stories, some not

Valentine's Day

Director: Garry Marshall
Stars: Julia Roberts, Jamie Foxx, Anne Hathaway, Jessica Biel
Classification: STC
Rating: ●●●●

On the web

• For movie trailers, screen times, photos — and to buy tickets — visit metronews.ca/movies

NED EHRBAR
 Metro World News

For his new romantic omnibus *Valentine's Day*, director Garry Marshall brings together an overwhelmingly impressive cast, including Julia Roberts, Ashton Kutcher, Anne Hathaway, Jamie Foxx, Jennifer Garner, Patrick Dempsey, Jessica Biel, Bradley Cooper, Jessica Alba, Topher Grace, Shirley MacLaine, Taylor Swift and Taylor Lautner.

It's an embarrassment of A-list riches. But so many big stars playing so many characters with so many Valentine's Day-related issues to work out makes the movie feel more than a little crowded. And while there's certainly something for

everyone in the interconnecting story lines, *Valentine's Day* suffers from a supreme lack of focus.

At the core of the film are a few very compelling stories played out by very charming actors, but there's too much else going on for the film to stop and give them the time they need. The hopeless romantic florist (Kutcher) oblivious to his fiancée's (Alba) cold feet, his best friend (Garner) discovering the hard way that her perfect boyfriend (Dempsey) isn't so perfect — these work. But Swift and Lautner hog up far too much screen time as dim high schoolers with nothing to contribute in a plot line that seems cynically designed to pull in their respective fans.



Jessica Biel, left, and Jaime Foxx, centre front, star in Garry Marshall's impressively casted romantic comedy *Valentine's Day*.

And a note to the filmmakers: When you have a character who can't get a date and uses chocolate as a coping mechanism, don't cast Jessica Biel. No one will believe it.



Jennifer Garner's character, Julia, in *Valentine's Day* discovers the hard way that her boyfriend isn't so perfect.

Uzbek film director convicted of slander

LEGAL An Uzbek film director was convicted of slander on Wednesday for making a documentary on wedding rituals in the authoritarian ex-Soviet state, but released on amnesty, the artist and her lawyer said.

Umida Akhmedova said the court in the Uzbek capital, Tashkent, found her guilty of slander and "of-

fence through mass media." Akhmedova's film, *The Burden of Virginity*, describes hardships young women face in the mostly Muslim nation during and after the traditional nuptial ceremonies, including the public demonstration of a bloodstained bedsheet after the first night.

The film has never been

shown in Uzbekistan, but is available online.

Akhmedova's public trial before Judge Bekzod Irmatov used a conclusion of government-appointed experts that found her film "offensive for the Uzbek nation" and a media campaign that lambasted her films and photographs.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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New Line appears ready to commit to getting the remake of John Carpenter's cult sci-fi action picture *Escape From New York* back on its feet and striding on the path to our screens, with a script by Allan Loeb. EMPIREONLINE.COM

Reel Time

★★★★★ A CLASSIC; ★★★★★ EXCELLENT; ★★★ GOOD; ★★ FAIR; ★ POOR

Obvious plot sinks Wolfman

The Wolfman

Director: Joe Johnston
Stars: Benicio Del Toro, Anthony Hopkins, Emily Blunt
Classification: STC
Rating: ★★

PHIL BROWN
 for Metro Canada

The blockbuster *Wolfman* remake arrives on screens this weekend after countless delays (including the original director quitting shortly before shooting began). That's never a good sign, but with a cast that includes Benicio Del Toro and Anthony Hopkins along with some stunning Gothic production design, it at least looked like the project had a shot at working.

Sadly, it doesn't. Though the filmmakers get a number of elements right, they can all be admired on the poster. Once the movie starts playing, disappointment sets in.



Wolfman stars Benicio Del Toro as its troubled protagonist.

The failure of this edition of *The Wolfman* comes down to the writing. The simple story about an involuntary and tortured monster has been expanded into a ludicrous murder mystery that barely hangs together.

Benicio Del Toro's troubled protagonist returns home follow-

ing the death of his brother, greeted by an impossibly evil father (Anthony Hop-

Movie review

kins, introduced with a silly suspicious grin that he doesn't drop until the credits roll) and the news that a werewolf is stocking his town. Unsurprisingly Del Toro is bitten by the monster and becomes prone to full moon rampages.

Admittedly whenever the *Wolfman* appears there's fun to be had, but tragically most of the movie is wasted unraveling a rather obvious murder plot.

Director Columbus is full of surprises

InFocus

Richard Crouse

metronews.ca/infocus

At first glance director Chris Columbus's new film seems like a call back to his earlier work. This weekend's *Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief* is based on a popular book series about a teenager with special powers who must battle supernatural forces.

Can you say Harry Potter? Sure, just don't say it near the filmmaker, who directed the first two films in the J.K. Rowling series and produced the third.

"It's nothing like Harry Potter," he told the *New Zealand Herald*. "I wouldn't have gotten involved in a picture that was too similar to Potter. I hadn't seen a film like this before and that was the reason I wanted to do it."

In fact, other than with sequels, he rarely repeats himself. His resume as a writer (*Gremlins*), producer (*Jingle All the Way*) and director (*Rent*) reveals a variety of styles and topics. He's no stranger to comedy, having helmed the *Home Alone* movies; no stranger to romance, as he proved with *Only the Lonely*, no

stranger to teen fare or musicals and in between those he's covered most other genres.

Nestled among his blockbusters are a number of deserving, lesser known titles.

In the comedy *Heartbreak Hotel* he added a chapter to the mythology of Elvis Presley. Starring Tuesday Weld — *The King's Wild* in the Country co-star — and David Keith as Elvis, the movie centers on Johnny Wolfe's (Charlie Schlatter) scheme to kidnap the singer and bring him home to cheer up his ailing mom (Weld).

It's very silly but Elvis fans will enjoy the sly tributes sprinkled throughout — Weld's motel is called *The Flaming Star* — and a soundtrack ripe with new versions of Elvis chestnuts like *That's All Right* and *Hound Dog* performed by Keith David and polka kings *The Bavarian Village Band*.

As a writer Columbus prepped himself for eventually helming the Potter movies by penning Young Sherlock Holmes and the *Pyramid of Fear*.

Directed by Barry Levinson, the story of young Holmes and Watson meeting and solving a boarding school mystery is primarily notable as the first movie to feature a completely computer-generated character in the form of a knight created from a stained glass window.

Columbus is a restless storyteller who can't be pinned down. He's someone who blazes his own path and takes chances. I mean who else would cast Uma Thurman as a snake-haired Medusa?

Richard Crouse's Movie Show can be seen every Sunday at 6:30 p.m. on the E! Channel. mrchaos33@hotmail.com

Percy Jackson is a pricey, miscast mess

Percy Jackson And The Olympians: The Lightning Thief

Director: Chris Columbus
Stars: Alexandra Daddario, Steve Coogan, Logan Lerman
Classification: STC
Rating: ★★

PHIL BROWN
 for Metro Canada

REVIEW Hollywood has been paying a lot of attention to young adult fantasy novels following the success of the *Harry Potter* and *Twilight* franchises.

Percy Jackson And The

Movie review

Olympians: The Lightning Thief is the latest attempt at a young adult cash cow and one that probably won't continue beyond a single movie. If the unwieldy title doesn't scare away viewers, then the poorly paced screenplay and celebrity miscasting should do the trick. A great deal of money was clearly spent trying to launch this franchise, but sadly it all went to waste.

The film is about a young boy who discovers he is the son of the Greek



Uma Thurman plays Medusa in *Percy Jackson And The Olympians*.

God Poseidon, leading the teen into a secret society

in the woods that inexplicably seems to be under constant training for battle. The combination of teen fantasy and Greek mythology may have seemed exciting on the page, but feels undeniably silly onscreen.

It certainly doesn't help that in an attempt to lock up big names for sequels a few well-known actors have been painfully miscast. Uma Thurman manages to outdo her overacting in *Batman And Robin* as Medusa and Pierce Brosnan dons some epic facial hair as an unlikely centaur.

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1. Need You Now, Lady Antebellum, left; 2. Rebirth, Little Wayne; 3. Who I Am, Nick Jonas & The Administration; 4. The Fame, Lady Gaga; 5. 2010 Grammy Nominees, Various Artists. METRO NEWS SERVICES

The Billboard 200

Music

Turning the Page

GRAHAM ROCKINGHAM
for Metro Canada



A Singer Must Die. The title of Steven Page's new CD may make Barenaked Ladies' fans cringe.

Is Page talking about himself?

Or is it that other guy, Ed Robertson, the one who's still with the Ladies, the one Page used to duet with on I Had A Million Dollars?

Neither, actually. It's simply the name of a Leonard Cohen song that Page cov-

ers on the new CD (which lands in stores Tuesday). Nothing more. Nothing less. Well, OK, maybe Page is being a tad mischievous. It's his nature.

"There was a certain amount of irony that wasn't missed when we were choosing that title," Page says from his new home near Syracuse, N.Y.

A Singer Must Die. The Cohen song is one of ten covers on the album, which Page has recorded with Andrew Burashko and his classical chamber ensemble,

the Art of Time. The album is a mixed bag of songs that include Jane Siberry's The Taxi Ride, Rufus Wainwright's Foolish Love, Elvis Costello's I Want You and Radiohead's Paranoid Android.

It's not the type of record most artists would use to launch a new solo career. It's not a pop record designed for air play.

Timing, however, didn't give Page much of an option. The album and its accompanying tour was planned before the infa-

mous drug bust that would result in Page leaving the Barenaked Ladies.

Back when it was conceived in the spring of 2008, A Singer Must Die was supposed to be just a side project. At the time Burashko's ensemble was doing a series of concerts with guest vocalists. The Page concert went so well live, they decided to record a studio version and release a CD.

Then came the coke bust. It happened near Syracuse at the apartment of Page's girlfriend Christine Benedicto. They got off with little more than a rap on the knuckles from the trial judge. Publicity-wise, however, the timing was horrendous: Barenaked Ladies had just released a children's CD. Page announced his departure from the band and his side project with Burashko turned into



A Singer Must Die is the title of Steven Page's first solo album.

the first album of his new solo career.

For fans who were hoping for something more traditional than A Singer Must Die, don't worry. That will come soon. Page has another CD of original songs ready for release in May or June.

The back-to-back release of these CDs coincides, more or less, with the first Pageless offering from the Barenaked Ladies. The band's new album, All in Good Time, will be available

in March.

"We don't talk of ten," Page says of his former bandmates.

The bust was the immediate impetus for his split with BNL. But Page believes it was inevitable.

"Things had certainly been breaking down for a couple of years. We probably weren't as up front with each other as we were in (earlier) times. We were all pretty unsure about what we wanted to do and whether we wanted to stay together."

A Singer Must Die is out on Tuesday



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Secrecy behind Internet ban

SoundCheck

Alan Cross

metronews.ca/soundcheck

Back in November, I wrote about ACTA, the secret anti-counterfeiting trademark agreement involving Canada, the U.S., Mexico, the EU and nine other countries. Representatives have been meeting behind closed doors for two years to hammer out a treaty that will inevitably affect every single person on the Internet.

Yet there has been almost zero transparency. None of the draft texts have been made public and those outside the inner circle are bound by tough non-disclosure agreements.

This doesn't mean there haven't been some leaks.

Aside from measures to fight counterfeiting, there have been discussions about a worldwide "three strikes" rule. Accused (not caught, proven or convicted) of file-sharing music three times by an aggrieved rights holder, and you're banned from the Internet. For life.

Internet service providers and telecoms would be liable for copyright infringements by their users. To avoid prosecution, that means they'll have to find some way of sniffing through all the data — YOUR data — that passes through their pipes. And even though you may have a legitimate right to, say, ship a music file from point A to point B, there's the potential for red flags at the ISP. Accused three times (not caught, proven or convicted) and you're done. Not just with your current ISP, either. They'll be required by international law to publish your

name to an Internet no-fly list will prevent you from ever having an Internet account in your name ever again.

And it gets better. Within the document is a second called Border Measures. There's the real possibility that some border guard will have the power to make you prove all those music files on that iPhone in your pocket are, in fact, not pirated. Can't do it? Bye-bye, iPhone. Oh, and you could be charged and fined.

This is more than just file-sharing for stopping fake Louis Vuitton bags. It's about privacy, civil liberties, and legitimate use of the Internet for commerce and innovation.

Be informed. Read what the Electronic Frontier Foundations says at eff.org/issues/acta.

The Ongoing History Of New Music can be heard on stations across Canada. Read more at ongoinghistory.com and exploremusic.com

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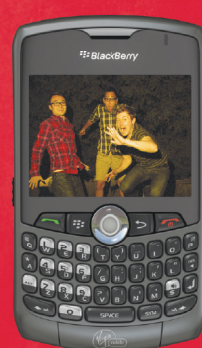
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The fifth season of Friday Night Lights will be its last, multiple sources confirm. Sources say the NBC has informed the show's cast that they're free to pursue other work after production on season 5 wraps in June. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Television



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Baby girl upstages Idol

REALITY TV The American Idol group auditions proved to be a drama of two dads. When yesterday's episode had ended, Michael Lynche, known as "Big Mike," was the proud father of a newborn baby girl and had made it into the next round of the singing contest.

But Seth Rollins of Lakeland, Fla., who had hoped to make a better life for his autistic son and who performed with Lynche and two other contestants, was cut by the judges.

Lynche, of Astoria, N.Y., missed out on being at his wife's side as she delivered their daughter and instead monitored the birth by phone.

"Hi, baby girl," he heard his wife say, then dropped his head into his arms. With his fellow group members standing by, he turned back to the competition. "Still got work to do," the new father said.

Lynche ended up among the 71 contestants moving on to the next round, out of 96 that started the night. A number of those cut left in tears.

"This was a dream, you know, and I was really hoping it would come true," said ousted Mark La Briola.

New judge Ellen DeGeneres and Simon Cowell, who had played nicely on Tuesday's show, had a brief clash of personalities Wednesday. When a contestant complained vaguely of "hardship," DeGeneres helpfully tried to explain that a member of the singer's group had quit abruptly before their audition.

"That happens in life. It's not a hardship. It's rubbish," Cowell replied.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Austrian filmmakers have Oscar ambitions

AWARDS Austria, known more for Mozart than movies, is hoping to make it big at the Oscars next month.

The birthplace of action megastar Arnold Schwarzenegger is also increasingly a film awards juggernaut. The three Academy Award nominations for Austrians announced this month are a source of pride for the small country, whose films and actors are getting renewed attention from Oscar after watching from the wings for years.

"Anybody who knows a little bit about films knows about Austria," said Geoff Andrew, an expert at the British Film Institute.

Christoph Waltz, the front-runner for best supporting actor for Quentin Tarantino's Inglourious Basterds, is perhaps the most high-profile of the Austrians in contention.

Director Michael Haneke and cinematographer Christian Berger,

meanwhile, are in the running for best foreign language film and best cinematography for their work on The White Ribbon, a disturbing black-and-white drama submitted by neighbouring Germany, presenting a sombre study of a troubled village on the eve of the First World War.

Austrians — or those with links to the country — were generally irrelevant at the Oscars for decades. Haneke and Waltz

are the

"Anybody who knows a little bit about films knows about Austria."

Geoff Andrew, British Film Institute

biggest names, but in the last several years the Alpine nation of roughly 8.3 million has had a regular seat at the ceremony. In 2008, Stefan Ruzowitzky took home the foreign-language Oscar for The Counterfeiters.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ready to take on Canada

Colbert's got his game on



Last November Colbert, right, announced his show had become the primary sponsor of the U.S. Speedskating team.

Like many of the athletes vying for gold in Vancouver, Stephen Colbert's Olympic training has been eventful.

He has already auditioned for the U.S. bobsled, skating and curling teams. He has angered a sizable portion of Canada. And he has landed on the cover of Sports Illustrated's Olympic preview.

Now, he's preparing for the big event. While The Colbert Report is in repeats next week, the comedian will be in Vancouver for the first week of the Olympics.

He'll be there recording a wealth of material for his show (to air beginning Feb. 22), attending events, conducting interviews and doing a kind of half-show from a stage set up outside the Olympic centre.

"We'll bring snow because I don't think Vancouver has any," he said in an interview, taking a swipe at the city's sometimes watery precipitation.

Just as he has inserted himself into big events such as the 2008 election (during which he was briefly and illegitimately a candidate)

"I'm really in awe of what (the athletes) do and I want to be there to support them."

Stephen Colbert

and the Iraq war (he did a week of shows from Baghdad in 2009), Colbert has made himself a key figure for the XXI Olympic Games, which start Friday.

When the U.S. Speedskating team lost its primary sponsor last fall (the Dutch bank DSB went bankrupt), the Report stepped in with a novel idea. The show's ardent fans had previously raised sizable amounts of money for charity, and the show suggested that the Colbert Nation could sponsor the skaters.

Fan donations filled the vacancy by raising more than \$300,000. Colbert Nation is branded on the team's suits and Colbert has had an active relationship with the squad.

Many Canadians, though, have been put off by Colbert's frequent mockery. As a pseudo pundit, Colbert likes to elevate the U.S. above all other countries, making the Olympics — which he calls a combination "talent popularity-contest war" — prime fodder for parodic patriotism.

He has called Canadians "syrup-suckers," "Saskatchewinners," and said Canadian history is a euphemism for a sex act so depraved, he can't say it on TV.

Colbert still jokes that he's going to Vancouver to find out "What is Canada? Or more importantly, why is Canada?"

But now that foreign athletes have received more ice time in Vancouver, Colbert says, "I've forgiven Canada... I'm there to celebrate Canada at this point."

But for all of his satire, it's clear Colbert has a gen-

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Entertainment in brief

WE WANT BETTY More than 188,000 people on Facebook are urging Saturday Night Live to make Betty White a host. The 88-year-old actress was recently given a lifetime achievement award at the Screen Actors Guild Awards and starred in a Super Bowl commercial for Snickers that

has ranked as one of the game's most popular. The Facebook page, which isn't affiliated with White, says she would be a "fantastic" host and that it would be a terrific way to honour her. White and NBC have had no comment on the idea.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jackson wants medical records

LEGAL A judge in Los Angeles will rule next week on whether Michael Jackson's father can obtain medical records related to the death of his superstar son.

Joe Jackson's attorney, Brian Oxman, sought the records as part of an effort to obtain a monthly

stipend for the Jackson family patriarch. He says his client has a right to know more about his son's death and the records could also be used to pursue a wrongful death lawsuit. Jackson's estate opposed releasing the records. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Television

Canada is ready to win, Williams

The true keeper of Canada's Olympic flame is no secret. It is Brian Williams, prime-time host of Vancouver 2010 Winter Games.

Vancouver will mark the Winnipeg native's 13th Olympics — 11th as broadcast host.

Williams says he is astounded by how far Canada has come, both as a team of athletes and as a host nation.

"It's a different feeling this time," says Williams.

"At Calgary and Montreal you got the feeling the athletes were just happy to be home. Here they are happy to be home but they expect to win at home. It's a very different mindset."

Canada won just five medals in 1988 in Calgary and, as in Montreal in 1976, no gold. But in Turin at the last Winter Games, Canada won 24 medals. Only Germany and the United States did better.

"People stop me in the street and say, 'Do you re-

ally think we can finish first overall?'" he says. Williams thinks that might be a stretch but he sees Canada in the top three at least.

Even the Americans are taking note of the changes, says Williams.

"USA Today said last week (Canadians are) no longer our friendly northern neighbours, they want to beat us."

He singles out Erik Guay in the men's downhill and Jennifer Heil in moguls



CTV's Brian Williams

freestyle as two Canadians who could strike gold as early as Saturday.

The medal count could soar, he says. "You'll see numbers we've never dreamed of."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

FRIDAY	HA	H	D	B	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
prime time 2/12/10	31	31	31	ABC	News Center	World News	Inside Edition	Chronicle	Spider-Man 2 *** (2004, Action)	Tobey Maguire, James Franco.			
36	36	36	FOX	CTV News (N)	XXI Winter Olympics Opening Ceremony. (HDTV) (Live)								
7	7	7	ASN	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Rick Mercer	Marketplace	CBC News: The fifth estate			CBC News: The National (N)	The Hour (N)	
32	32	32	CBS	WBZ News (N)	Evening News	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Surviving Survivor			Undercover Boss	NUMB3RS	
6	6	6	CHIF	Entertainment	ET Canada	Spider-Man 2 *** (2004, Action)	Tobey Maguire, James Franco.						News Final (N)
9	9	9	CJCH	CTV News (N)	XXI Winter Olympics Opening Ceremony. (HDTV) (Live)								
36	36	36	FOX	Seinfeld	The Simpsons	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	'House' Brave Heart			Kitchen Nightmares	Fox First	
12	12	12	NBC	News	NBC News	Olympic Zone	XXI Winter Olympics Opening Ceremony. (HDTV) (Live)						
55	55	55	SCOR	HSR	Covers	Aussie Millions '09	WWE SmackDown!						X-Fighters
53	53	53	TSN	SportsCentre	Countdown Canada Vancouver 2010 Opening Ceremony.						XXI Winter Olympics Opening Ceremony.		
16	16	16	A&E	CSI: Miami "Shattered"	Criminal Minds (HDTV)	Criminal Minds (HDTV)					Criminal Minds (HDTV)	Criminal	
70	70	70	APTN	Journey: Paddle-Quatsun	Countdown Canada (N)						XXI Winter Olympics Opening Ceremony.		
37	37	37	BRVO	Emily of New Moon	Des McAnuff-Life-Stages	Bravo/FACT Presents					White Collar (N)	Dexter	
49	49	49	COM	Just for Laughs	Air Force	22 Minutes	Corner Gas	Corner Gas			The Simpsons	South Park	Comedy Now
18	18	18	CNN	(6) The Situation Room With Wolf	Blitzer (N)		Campbell Brown (N)				Larry King Live (N)	Cooper 360	
38	38	38	DISC	Cash Cab	How It's Made	Daily Planet (N)	Dirty Jobs				Man vs. Wild "Alaska"	Flying Carrier	
48	48	48	HGTV	Extreme Makeover: Home	House	Property	House	Green Homes			Location, Location, Location	House Hunt	
46	46	46	HIST	Sinking an Aircraft Carrier	Ancients Behaving Badly	Nostradamus Effect					Assault on Precinct 13 (2005, Action)		
17	17	17	MM	Love Court	My Date	The Vampire Diaries	The Prince & Me *** (2004, Romance-Comedy)						At the Base
206	206	206	PIX	(6:30) The Wolf ** (1994, Horror)		(8:40) The Wolf Man (1941, Horror)					Slap Shot (1977, Comedy-Drama)		
39	39	39	SHOW	Trailer Park	Trailer Park	Relic Hunter	Lava Storm (2008, Suspense)	Valerie Valois.					Kenny vs.
40	40	40	SLICE	What	Wedding SOS	Rich Bride Poor Bride	Til Debt-Part	Til Debt-Part			Til Debt-Part	Til Debt-Part	
21	21	21	TLC	Dress	Dress	What Not to Wear	What Not to Wear				What Not to Wear	Say Yes	
22	22	22	W	House-Sell	House-Sell	Supernanny	How to Look Good Naked				10 Things I Hate About You (1999, Comedy)		
27	27	27	YTV	iCarly	iCarly	Just My Luck * (2006, Romance-Comedy)	Lindsay Lohan, Chris Pine.				Fries That?	Prank Patrol	

SATURDAY	HA	H	D	B	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
prime time 2/13/10	31	31	31	ABC	News Center	World News	Cosby Show		Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets *** (2002, Fantasy)				
7	7	7	ASN	XXI Winter Olympics Skiing, Freestyle Skiing, Short Track Speed Skating, Hockey, Medal Ceremonies. (Live)									
11	11	11	CBC	National	Hockey Night	NHL Hockey Philadelphia Flyers at Montreal Canadiens. (HDTV) (Live)							NHL Hockey
32	32	32	CBS	WBZ News (N)	Evening News	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy!	Wedding Crashers *** (2005, Comedy)					48 Hours.
6	6	6	CHIF	renewed	Jane Show	A Valentine Carol (2007, Romance)	Emma Caulfield.				Love-Death	G-Spot	News Final (N)
9	9	9	CJCH	XXI Winter Olympics Skiing, Freestyle Skiing, Short Track Speed Skating, Hockey, Medal Ceremonies. (Live)									
36	36	36	FOX	Friends	Friends	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Cops (N)	Cops		America's Most Wanted	Fox First	
12	12	12	NBC	News	NBC News	Paid Program	Paid Program	XXI Winter Olympics Speed Skating, Freestyle Skiing, Skating.					
55	55	55	SCOR	MMA Show	Footy Show	WWE Vintage Collection	Score Rewind	Cabby Unlmit	Score Now	Footy Show	Hockey Sat.		
53	53	53	TSN	XXI Winter Olympics Ski Jumping, Speed Skating, Freestyle Skiing, Hockey. (HDTV) (Live)									
16	16	16	A&E	Manhunters	Manhunters	CSI: Miami (HDTV)		CSI: Miami (HDTV)			CSI: Miami (HDTV)	CSI: Miami	
70	70	70	APTN	The Journey Dallas Sounias.	Flame	Jeux olympiques d'hiver	XXI Winter Olympics Hockey. (Live)				A Few Good Men *** (1992, Drama)		
37	37	37	BRVO	Arts & Minds	Bravo/Videos	Spectacle: Elvis	Star Portraits	Books-Film			The Simpsons	South Park	John Oliver
49	49	49	COM	VIP	Get Your Ass	Comedy Now	Comedy Now	Corner Gas	Jeff Dunham		The Simpsons	South Park	John Oliver
18	18	18	CNN	Situation Room-Wolf Blitzer	Newsroom			Black in America	"Tomorrow's Leaders"				Newsroom
38	38	38	DISC	Cash Cab	How It's Made	Cash Cab (N)	Cash Cab	Destroyed	Destroyed		Dirty Jobs "Sheep Castrator"	Vermintors	
48	48	48	HGTV	Holmes on Homes	Flipping Out	Million Dollar Listing		Property	Price		Makeover		
46	46	46	HIST	Ancients Behaving Badly	Nostradamus Effect			Cities of the Underworld			A Mighty Heart (2007, Docudrama)		
17	17	17	MM	The Vampire Diaries	The Prince & Me *** (2004, Romance-Comedy)			Love Court	My Date		At the Base		
206	206	206	PIX	(6:10) The Dead Zone	Runaway Train ** (1985, Action)	Jon Voight.		The Silence of the Lambs (1991)					
39	39	39	SHOW	Howie Do It	About a Girl	Slings and Arrows	Nightmare at the End of the Hall (2008, Drama)				Hot Rod		
40	40	40	SLICE	Til Debt-Part	Til Debt-Part	Real Housewives of Jersey	Real Housewives of Atlanta	Real Housewives, Orange			Project Runway	LA Ink	
21	21	21	TLC	LA Ink "Kat's Back"	LA Ink (HDTV)			LA Ink (HDTV)					
22	22	22	W	The Notebook ** (2004, Romance)	Ryan Gosling, Rachel McAdams, James Garner.			The Lake House ** (2006, Romance)					
27	27	27	YTV	Kid vs. Kat	League-Evil	Zeke's Pad	Prank Patrol	Amer. Funniest Home Videos	That's-Weird	Prank Patrol	Survive This		

SUNDAY	HA	H	D	B	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
prime time 2/14/10	31	31	31	ABC	News Center	World News	Amer. Funniest Home Videos		Amer. Funniest Home Videos		Extreme Makeover: Home Edition (N)		
7	7	7	ASN	CTV News (N)	XXI Winter Olympics Freestyle Skiing, Figure Skating, Luge, Medal Ceremonies. (Live)								
11	11	11	CBC	Heartland (DVS)	Booky's Crush (2009, Drama)	Megan Follows.					CBC News: The National	Doc Zone	
32	32	32	CBS	PGA Tour Golf	WBZ News (N)	60 Minutes (HDTV) (N)	The Amazing Race 16				Undercover Boss (N)	Cold Case (N)	
6	6	6	CHIF	Family	Shark Tank		The Simpsons	Cleveland	Family Guy	American Dad	News Final (N)		
9	9	9	CJCH	CTV News (N)	XXI Winter Olympics Freestyle Skiing, Figure Skating, Luge, Medal Ceremonies. (Live)								
36	36	36	FOX	Cold Case	"Til Death (N)"	"Til Death (N)"	The Simpsons	Cleveland	Family Guy	American Dad	Fox First		
12	12	12	NBC	News	NBC News	XXI Winter Olympics Figure Skating, Freestyle Skiing, Luge, Skating. (HDTV) (Live)							
55	55	55	SCOR	Score Today	The WWE Experience	MMA Fight Night					Score Now		
53	53	53	TSN	(6) XXI Winter Olympics Freestyle Skiing. (HDTV) (Live)			NBA Basketball 2010 All-Star Game. (HDTV) (Live)						
16	16	16	A&E	CSI: Miami (HDTV)	CSI: Miami (HDTV)		Criminal Minds (HDTV)				Criminal Minds (HDTV)	Criminal	
70	70	70	APTN	Thin Ice	XXI Winter Olympics Hockey. (Live)								Olympics
37	37	37	BRVO	Spectacle: Elvis	Arts & Minds	Bravo/FACT	Life of Glenn Gould	Shakespeare in Love *** (1998)			The Simpsons	South Park	John Oliver
49	49	49	COM	VIP	Get Your Ass	Laughs	For Laughs	Comedy Now	Comedy Now		The Simpsons	South Park	John Oliver
18	18	18	CNN	Newsroom				Black in America "Today's Pioneers"					Newsroom
38	38	38	DISC	Cash Cab	How It's Made	MythBusters		The Great Sperm Race			Time Warp	MythBusters	
48	48	48	HGTV	Holmes Inspection	House	House	My First Place	Bang, Buck			Holmes Inspection	House-Bryan	
46	46	46	HIST	Ice Pilots NWT (HDTV)	Ancient Discoveries		Cities of the Underworld				The Rock *** (1996, Action)		
17	17	17	MM	Make It or Break It	America's Best Dance Crew		So You Think You Can Dance						At the Base
206	206	206	PIX	(6:15) Driven * (2001, Action)	(8:20) Shattered						The Bourne Identity (2002, Suspense)		
39	39	39	SHOW	Mighty Heart	Kink in Hair	Cra\$h & Burn	A Valentine Carol (2007, Romance)	Emma Caulfield.			Damages (N)		
40	40	40	SLICE	Til Debt-Part	Til Debt-Part	Til Debt-Part	Til Debt-Part	Til Debt-Part			Til Debt-Part	Til Debt-Part	
21	21	21	TLC	American Chopper	American Chopper			Tiger Woods			Sexistics: Your Love Life (N)	Strange Sex	
22	22	22	W	Lake House	Hwd 10 Best	Supernanny	Come Dine With Me				The Obsession (2006, Suspense)		
27	27	27	YTV	Ever After: A Cinderella Story *** (1998, Romance)			Family Biz				Fries That?	Fries That?	Survive This

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REWARDS

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Celebrating Valentine's Day...

Love Letters

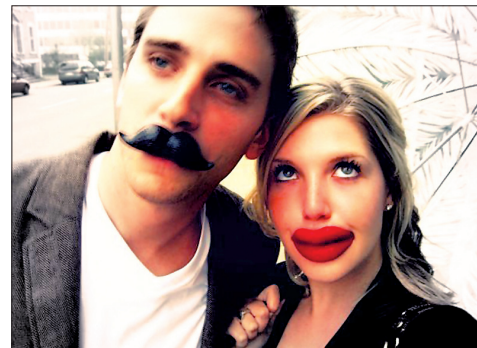
Metro readers are a romantic bunch. When we asked you to submit your sweet nothings, we were deluged with love letters that would even make cupid blush. Here are some of our favourites



AT LEFT:

COLIN AND EUNICE, HALIFAX
Happy Valentine's Anniversary to my hubby Colin! Let's go for another 10 years!

- EUNICE



AT RIGHT:

CORALIA, HALIFAX
Sweet 'Stache & Sugar Lips. Happy love day, bubbs. <3 C.

- CORALIA

Yay! metro's kooolest

The Best Halifax has to Offer

Metro News and 96.5 Kool FM want YOU to weigh in on the city's coolest places to eat, party, shop – you name it! Go to metronews.ca or kool965fm.ca to register your choice for this month's category:

Metro's Kooolest Family Doctor!

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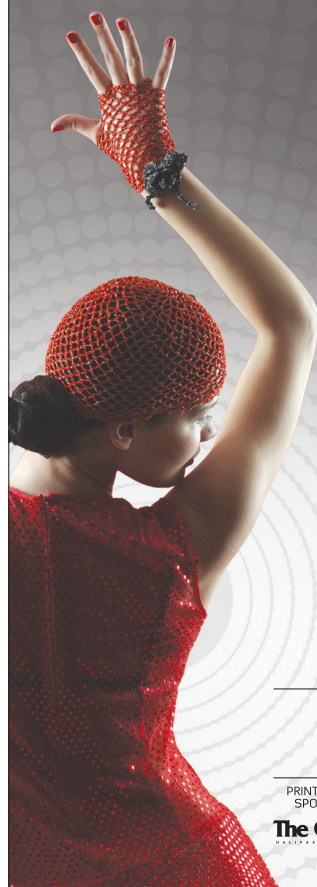
AT LEFT:

JULIE AND ANDRE, HALIFAX

My love,
No matter where we are,
your smile is my smile...
and our love will go on for
miles and miles.
Your love, xox.

- ANDRE

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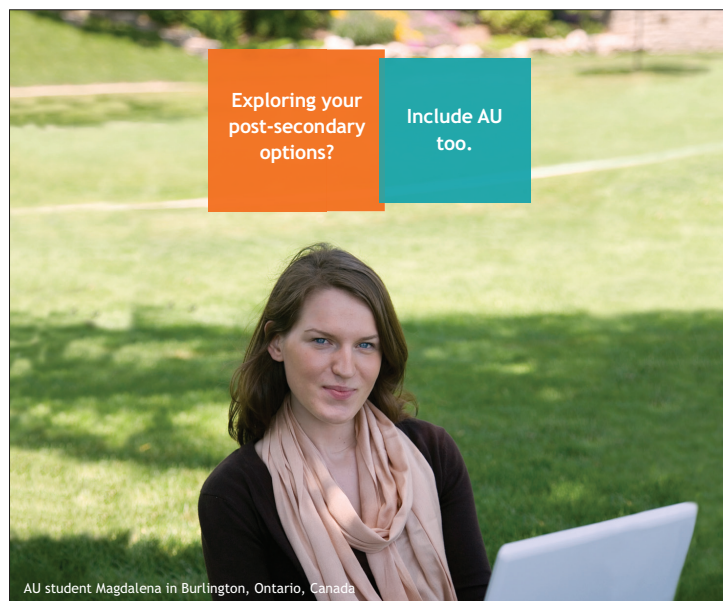


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28 movies&entertainment

Becker welcomes a son

It's a boy for tennis ace Boris Becker and his wife Sharley "Lilly" Kerssenberg. The pair, who wed in June, welcomed a son, Amadeus Benedict Edley Luis Becker, in London on Feb. 9. Becker confirmed to German newspaper Bild. TVGUIDE.COM

Going Out

Metro's 7th Heaven: Metro taps what's hot right now

1 Vancouver 2010 Olympics

EVENT Canada's moment of pride is finally here. The games kick off today and the hopes of gold-medal glory are sky high right now. CTV is covering the event.

2 Amreeka

DVD New immigrant stories either tend to be ridiculously upbeat or terribly depressing. Not Amreeka. This tale of a Palestinian mother and son's journey to America keeps a sense of humour without losing reality.

3 Bioshock 2

GAME Given the pervasive weirdness of the series, it's a little surprising that it has become so popular. The game is set in the fictional dystopian city Rapture, eight years after the events of BioShock.



4 One Life Stand: Hot Chip

ALBUM The geeky British electro-pop band may not have the oomph, but they are the closest you'll get to Pet Shop Boys-era grooves these days. Their latest trolls out more bleepy party-starters.

5 Ellen DeGeneres

CELEBRITY Her daytime show may already be a hit, but Ellen DeGeneres is proving that her ratings magic also applies to the commedienne's new primetime gig. Viewership for American Idol was up by double digits (12 per cent) during last Tuesday's premiere, and DeGeneres earned lofty praise from co-host Kara DioGuardio who said "I think she did an incredible job."

6 The Wolfman

FILM To be honest, Universal's update of Lon Chaney Jr's 1951 classic doesn't look too promising. But here are the alternatives: The all-you-can-eat mush of Valentine's Day, or the kiddie clamour of Percy Jackson & The Olympians: The Lightning Thief. See, B-grade horror heaven doesn't look that bad after all.

7 Sweet Little Lies: Lauren Conrad

BOOK Apparently there's life after reality shows. A pretty good one at that. The Hills star follows up her successful debut novel L.A. Candy with another shot of saccharine fluff. Sweet Little Lies continues the Hollywood adventures of Conrad's alter-ego Jane Roberts — which really means more words spent on parties and shopping.

Mix of Six

Sexy Laundry

When: Through Sunday
Where: Neptune Theatre

This funny and fast-paced 90-minute play looks at a wife trying to rekindle the passion in her marriage after 25 years. Tickets are \$28 to \$45.

Doc Walker

When: Friday, 8 p.m.
Where: The Schooner Room, Casino Nova Scotia

The popular Juno Award-winning Canadian country music trio will perform all their hits. Tickets are \$42.

Little Ray's Reptile Zoo

When: Through Sunday
Where: Exhibition Park

This popular zoo for families will be in town for shows featuring Keisha the

Tiger and Lady-Chomps-A-Lot the Alligator. Visit raysreptiles.com for details.

Premier Basketball

When: Sunday, 4 p.m.
Where: Halifax Metro Centre

The Halifax Rainmen go against Manchester Millrats. Tickets are \$29 and \$25.

Deric Ruttan

When: Saturday, 8 p.m.
Where: The Schooner Room, Casino Nova Scotia

This Nashville singer draws comparisons to Bruce Springsteen. Tickets are \$31.

Flamenco Valentine

When: Through Sunday, 8 p.m.
Where: FRED Beauty

The Maria Osende Flamenco Company performs. Tickets are \$37.

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Fortune shines on INXS again?

J.D. Fortune is rejoining INXS for an Olympic bow in his home country. The Pictou Co. native has posted on his website that he'll be fronting the Aussie rock band when they take the stage at Vancouver's BC Place on Feb. 24. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Entertainment

A Valentine's song just for you

Valentine'sDay

JON TATTRE
for Metro Canada



Earning a living as a full-time musician can be a tough gig, so it's no wonder Halifax singer Ryan MacGrath can be yours for a song — literally. MacGrath auctioned off the composition of an original love song for Valentine's Day.

Bidding was fierce at Ryannmacgrath.com and even after the winner was announced, a second would-be Romeo hired MacGrath to write him a birthday gift. MacGrath will now write a song

based on the winner's own love story and create an original painting for the CD case.

He said the idea came when he had some down time before his full-length debut album Cooper Hatch Paris drops in May.

"I like the challenge. I like the notion of going outside of myself and ultimately having to write something more universal," he explained. "When I'm writing my own songs, it tends to be very personal. Something like this, it gets me out of my own head and my own fear and forces me to think in a broader way."

He's done commissioned songs in the past and is he's eager to do more. He can be hired via

his website.

"I love the idea of having the audience contribute to the music they will ultimately listen to," he said.

The song was bought for a mere \$200 by Halifax businessman Michael Christie. He met with MacGrath early this month to give him the raw materials to turn into tune by Valentine's Day. Christie had seen MacGrath perform before and loved his Rufus Wainwright-esque songs.

MacGrath will write about Christie's romance with Nicholas, his husband of three years. Their first Valentine's Day eight years ago set the bar low, with Nicholas offering Michael a hotdog-shaped

card.

"It was the tackiest Valentine's card you could possibly find. It looked like something Homer Simpson would buy," Michael Christie said. "Maybe this year we'll be inspired to at least listen to the song and have a nice glass of wine."

Always the businessman, Christie hopes it'll accrue in value. "Maybe one day when he's successful, I'll have a very early song that was commissioned just for me," he said. If not, it'll surely appreciate in sentimental value. Christie imagines coming across the CD 40 years from now. "After we figure out how to play it, we'll be like, 'Hey, it's that song!'"



Musician Ryan MacGrath auctioned off a song for one lucky couple this Valentine's Day.

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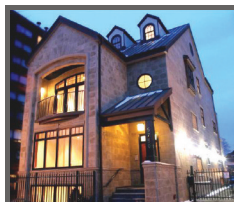
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Emily Blunt hates airbrushing. The star is proud of her curvy figure and wants to show it off, femalefirst.co.uk reports. She said: "I hate when your legs are three times the length they actually are. It's unfair." **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Celebrity Buzz

Kardashian goes from Super Bowl to producing

I GUESS ANYONE CAN DO IT Now that her boyfriend has won a Super Bowl, Kim Kardashian has a new goal:

To produce TV shows. "I definitely see myself doing a lot more (producing)," she says. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**



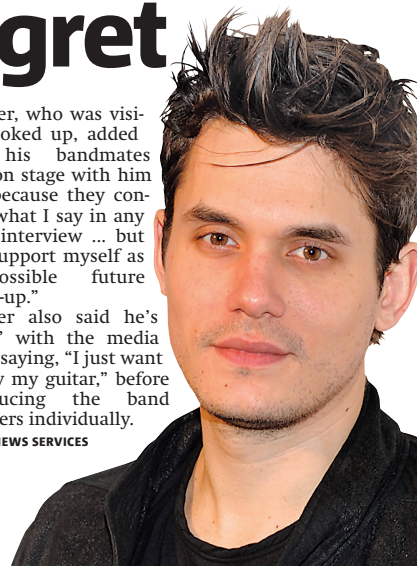
Mayer's eyes wet with regret

'I SWEAR I DIDN'T MEAN TO SAY THE WORDS THAT I SAID' (INSERT TEARS) Amidst criticism for his comments in a Playboy interview — including racist remarks and racy details of sex with Jessica Simpson — John Mayer issued a tearful apology at his concert in Nashville on Wednesday night, people.com reports.

Wringing his hands on stage, the troubled guitarist told his audience at the Sommet Center that he fell into "a wormhole of selfishness, greediness and arrogance" and "in the quest to be clever, forgot about the people who love me and that I love."

Mayer, who was visibly choked up, added that his bandmates were on stage with him "not because they condoned what I say in any given interview ... but they support myself as a possible future grown-up." Mayer also said he's "done" with the media game, saying, "I just want to play my guitar," before introducing the band members individually.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

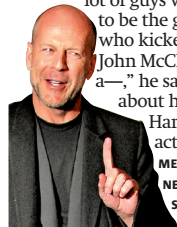


Willis' Die Hard rep follows him

THEY DON'T MAKE ACTION HEROES (OR MOVIES) LIKE THEY USED TO Bruce Willis claims drunken guys always try to start fights with him, femalefirst.co.uk reports. The 54-year-old actor gets annoyed by men who want to challenge him in bars because of his tough guy persona. "It took me a long time to understand that a

lot of guys wanted to be the guy who kicked John McClane's a—," he said about his Die Hard character.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Ellen's undies make big splash in Patrick Dempsey's pants

ELLEN IS ALWAYS GOOD FOR SOME SUPPORT Most people would grimace getting underwear for a present — but not Patrick Dempsey, usmagazine.com reports. On Thursday's Ellen DeGeneres Show, the Valentine's Day star, 44, says he can't stop wearing Ellen undies.

"It is a great gift," he says. "You get this wonderful gift that says 'Ellen' right here on the band. It is fantastic underwear."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Follow these celebrities on Twitter...

CelebTweets

TILA TEQUILA wants another baby, Amy Winehouse is a Glee, and Nicole Richie's sense of humour needs to grow up.

@officialTila: Any men out there who would like to be my next baby daddy?? This is quite addicting!

@amywinehouse: How cool is Glee? it's funny & reminds me of school. wicked that they did rehab sounds the nuts. thanks Glee

@nicolerichie: WHY, no matter how old I get, are farts so f@!king funny!?!?

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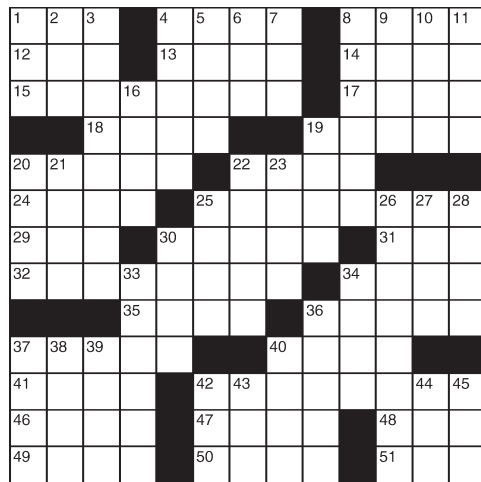
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Take Five



ACROSS

1 Dined
4 Last year's frosh
8 Actor Pitt
12 Hawaiian garland
13 Greek vowel
14 Continental coin
15 Collar style
17 From the beginning
18 Hastens
19 Church musicmaker
20 Unyielding
22 Disappear slowly
24 Sported
25 Grand view
29 Past
30 Helicopter blade
31 Ump
32 Almond confection
34 Trucker on the radio
35 Cain's victim
36 Snapshot
37 Canine

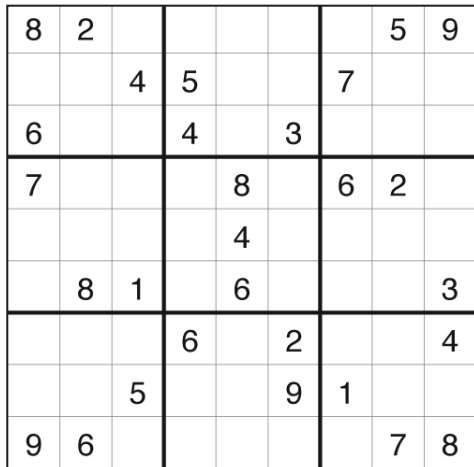
DOWN

16 Green land
19 Smell
20 Took to the pool
21 Frat-party garb
22 Deadly
23 In due time
25 Vatican VIP
26 Pertaining to trees
27 Encounter
28 Frizzy hairdo
30 Steak-house order
33 Pleasingly plump
34 Converse
36 Boscs and Bartletts
37 "Dragnet" star Jack
38 Exam format
39 Norway's capital
40 Winter forecast
42 Spot on a die
43 Time of your life?
44 Falsehood
45 Illustrations

Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.



PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:



4	3	7	8	6	2	1	5	9
2	1	9	5	3	4	7	6	8
6	5	8	7	9	1	3	4	2
3	2	5	6	4	7	9	8	1
1	7	4	9	2	8	5	3	6
8	9	6	3	1	5	4	2	7
9	8	2	1	5	3	6	7	4
5	4	1	2	7	6	8	9	3
7	6	3	4	8	9	2	1	5

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca

Metro Recipe of the Day



Chicken Couscous Salad

INGREDIENTS:

1 cup (250 ml) couscous
1 2/3 cups (400 ml) boiling chicken stock
2 red peppers, quartered lengthwise
1 zucchini, quartered lengthwise
5 oz (150 g) frozen fava beans
5 tbsp (75 ml) vinaigrette
2 tbsp (25 ml) lemon juice
1 cinnamon stick, bruised
4 tbsp (60 ml) toasted flaked almonds
14 oz (400 g) cooked chicken, chopped
1/2 oz (15 g) fresh parsley, chopped

METHOD:

1. Preheat broiler. Mix couscous with boiling stock and 1 tsp (5 ml) salt, then leave to soak.
2. While couscous is soaking, broil peppers and zuc-

chini until browned and just tender, turning as necessary. Cut into small pieces.

3. While peppers are broiling, cook fava beans in pot of boiling water 3 minutes, then drain and rinse under cold running water. Pat dry.
4. Fork through couscous briskly to separate grains. Add vinaigrette, lemon juice, cinnamon stick, flaked almonds, grilled vegetables and chicken. Season, then add chopped herbs and combine well. Serve.

SERVES 4

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.comFor Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES

MARCH 21-APRIL 20

The current cosmic climate is encouraging you to think deeply about who you are and what you do in the world.



TAURUS

APRIL 21-MAY 21

It is not enough that you know something needs to be changed — you must have the courage to go out and change it yourself.



LIBRA

SEPT 23-OCT 23

You will get the chance today to understand what makes someone tick. According to the planets it's important to know why they think and act.



SCORPIO

OCT 24-NOV 22

Someone in a position of authority is about to make you an attractive offer but because it means cutting back on your social life you may not be sure.



GEMINI

MAY 22-JUNE 21

You don't lack for self-belief but it will take more than that to realize your dreams, and you know it.



SAGITTARIUS

NOV 23-DEC 21

Focus on things you understand today and avoid issues where your knowledge is sketchy or limited.



CANCER

JUNE 22-JULY 22

You may look confident on the outside but on the inside you are plagued by self-doubt, although at the moment that may be no bad thing.



CAPRICORN

DEC 22-JAN 20

Tell the truth as you see it today, even at the risk of upsetting your nearest and dearest. Some issues are too important to be swept under the carpet.



LEO

JULY 23-AUG 23

You are the kind of person who can talk yourself in to or out of anything and today you should talk yourself into taking a trip away.



AQUARIUS

JAN 21-FEB 18

Don't expect the people you live or work with to read between the lines of what you are saying.



VIRGO

AUG 24-SEPT 22

Just because something is fashionable does not mean it is right and you would be wise to meditate on that point today.



PISCES

FEB 19-MARCH 20

What you fear the most is what you have least to fear. Venus in your sign from Thursday should set your mind at rest.



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